



WEBUTUCK
Students return to the stage **A2**



PINE PLAINS
Bombers travel to Millbrook **B5**

COMPASS
Gather at Troutbeck; Tangled Lines; And More **B1-4**



Special, Inside

Town of North East conducts dog census, encourages licensing of pets

By KRISTA A. BRIGGS
kristab@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — A stack of letters destined for the outgoing mail sat on Marcy Wheatley's desk at Town Hall. Wheatley, the North East deputy town clerk, said the correspondence was related to pet licensing, which has been in decline in recent years, despite being a New York State requirement. "Renewal numbers have gone down, down, down," observed town clerk Elizabeth "Tilly" Strauss, who is currently undertaking a dog census in North East as part of a campaign that began on Jan. 1 to determine the number of canines in town and their licensing status. Strauss is a dog-lover who is mystified by the drop in the numbers of licenses issued in the Town of North East. According to Strauss, 407 pet licenses were issued in 2017. By the following year, the number had dropped to 331. The trend downward, which has not been attributed to any particular cause, has continued, and the number of current licenses is around 200 — less than half of what was issued eight years ago.

In New York State, pet licensing is a legal requirement, but there are very practical reasons for obtaining a license. In 1992, as infected animals presented themselves in the region, Dutchess County was designated as a rabies county. As a result and for everyone's protec-

tion, all dogs and cats must receive a rabies vaccination.

Vaccination is a requirement for licensing, and the license serves as proof of a pet's vaccination status. Licenses must be renewed annually and rabies vaccinations must remain up-to-date. According to the New York State Department of Health, a pet should receive its first vaccination by around four months of age with a second vaccination to follow a year later. Subsequent booster shots should take place either annually or every three years, depending on the type of vaccine administered.

Once the vaccine has been administered, a license can be issued to the pet owner. Ideally, licenses are issued to owners when a pet is four months old and renewed each year. In the Town of North East, license fees are \$10 for spayed and neutered animals and \$20 for those that are not. Strauss is strongly encouraging pet licensing as failure to do so may result in the issuance of court appearance tickets and fines for pet owners. Additionally, the town's dog control officer will be conducting random checks to ensure compliance.

Applications and additional information on pet licensing can be found at Town Hall in Millerton. Renewal requests can be submitted online by going to: townofnortheastny.gov, clicking on "Forms," and navigating to the "Dog License Application."



PHOTO BY KRISTA A. BRIGGS

Town clerk Tilly Strauss shows off the dogs of the Town of North East at her desk in North East Town Hall on Maple Avenue in Millerton.

Can you hear me now?

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@lakevillejournal.com

Drivers and residents across Northeast Dutchess County, New York, and Connecticut's Northwest Corner are well aware of the area's spotty cell phone coverage.

"Cell phones suck," Amenia Volunteer Fire Chief Chris Howard said. He echoed the feelings of many residents and visitors to the area who contend with dropped calls and failed text messages on a regular basis.

Spotty cell service is annoying for drivers relying on GPS for directions and it creates problems for Howard and his department. Howard said the truck's computer-assisted routing uses the T-Mobile network. When trucks have to travel north of the traffic light in the middle of downtown Amenia, their cell service drops out and crews could lose those directions. Usually, Howard said, this isn't a huge setback for his crew,

See CELL SERVICE, PAGE A8

'Dine Out for History' series kicks off Jan. 26

By KRISTA A. BRIGGS
kristab@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The following restaurants will be participating in the Dine Out for History series on the following dates. Reservation are advised for most restaurants, so diners should call ahead to ensure seating. Ten percent of the pro-

ceeds will benefit the North East Historical Society.

- Millerton Inn — Sunday, Jan. 26
- Taro's — Thursday, Feb. 6
- The Oakhurst Diner — Sunday, Feb. 16
- Willa — Thursday, Feb. 27
- Round III — Monday, March 10
- Golden Wok — Wednesday, March 19 (takeout only)

Amenia Town Board continues public hearings on cannabis dispensaries

By LEILA HAWKEN
Special to the Millerton news

AMENIA — Two public hearings on whether or not to permit a cannabis dispensary to join the town's business landscape and consideration of term limits on the Town Board were some of the topics discussed at the regular meeting of the Town Board on Thursday, Jan. 16. Councilmember Brad Rebillard was absent.

The first of the public hearings on the topic of a cannabis retail establishment concerned opting in to state regulations, a necessary step to reversing a 2022 local law that had opted out of those state

regulations. The second of the public hearings would incorporate a new local law into the zoning code to regulate cannabis dispensaries in the town, detailing permitted locations and rules regarding operations.

Both public hearings heard residents' concerns about the wisdom of allowing such establishments.

Councilmember Rosanna Hamm suggested continuing both public hearings to allow more public input at the next Town Board meeting on Thursday, Feb. 5.

All residents who offered comment favored holding a town-wide referendum on the question of allowing a cannabis dispensary to

open and operate within the town.

Citing years of experience as a member of the Town Board, resident Darlene Riemer opposed allowing a dispensary, detailing the dangers of the use of drugs particularly among young families.

"I don't think cannabis is necessary," she said, favoring provision of more recreational opportunities for the town's young families.

Seeing a link between drug use and mental health issues, resident Bob Riemer strongly opposed the proposed dispensary, urging the Town Board to take a hard look at the proposal.

See CANNABIS, PAGE A8



CONTACT

The Millerton News
editor@millertonnews.com
860-435-9873, ext. 608

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OPINION

Columns,
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OUR TOWNS

Village board discusses next steps for pool project, service agreement for LED lights

By COLLEEN FLYNN
colleenf@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The Village of Millerton's board members met on Monday, Jan. 13, to discuss the Eddie Collins Memorial Park's pool project, which is moving full speed ahead.

Total grant funding for the project is now over \$7.6 million after an additional \$675,000 in grant money from the state. The aim is for the project to be completed in time to celebrate a Millerton milestone next year.

"They're expecting to start construction as early as mid-July," Mayor Jennifer Najdek said of the project which will hopefully coincide with the celebrations marking the founding of Millerton. "So we're really tightening up as far as being ready for the 175th anniversary," she added.

The Village is planning to contact multiple banks in the area, such as Bank of Millbrook and Bank of Greene County, which can handle large money needs and associated requests to fulfill this project. "We know that all of that seven million dollars will be reimbursed. My conversation is how I would like us to do a short-term BAN [bond anticipation note] for the park," said Najdek. "That way, as soon as we get into construction, we have a cash flow there to keep everything moving."

With the bond anticipation note, the Village must remain mindful of its constitutional debt limit since the reimbursement will come after paying for parts of the project. "It cannot be more than seven percent, a full valuation of taxable river property for the five most recent years, you can't go over seven percent of that," Najdek said. "So that puts us at \$7,461,395. Now that includes other debt

that we've taken out. So, actually, our debt limit now is \$7,000,301. I don't want to borrow seven million dollars."

Members discussed the best way to borrow money to pay for the construction and keep the project on their desired timeline for next year. According to Najdek, with some of the programs and grants the Village has received, the payments can be matched, one being 50/50 and the other 25/75. "Say we submit \$100,000, they give us \$50,000 back ... Up to \$500,000 and they hold on to the last 20 maybe 10% ... We need to spend the money first, before we can get any of that money back," Najdek said. "If we did somewhere in the middle, we don't know what the cost of this project is going to be. We don't know if it's going to stay right at the 7.56 or if it's going to be 7.9."

If the Village exceeded its debt limit, it would have to contact the state comptroller's office to get permission to spend. "Here we are talking about borrowing money that is being backed by an actual grant that's coming to us," said Trustee David Sherman. "This is not something that is going to cost the taxpayer money. We know if we have to pay the interest on the short term ourselves, but nevertheless, it's not going to be six or seven million dollars that is coming out of taxpayers' pockets."

The board is currently working on a budget which outlines the spending schedule needed to keep the pool maintained throughout the year.

"The next thing I am not entirely keen on is the proposed one year service agreement for the LED lights," Najdek said. "If something goes wrong, it's going to happen within the first year, but there are warranties on the equip-

ment itself. There's a one-year workmanship warranty for it. I am not inclined to move forward with this."

This additional service would cost the Village \$150 a month or \$1,800 a year. However, the Village would be charged an extra 20% of the commission the contractor receives. "In RealTerm [Energy], if something goes wrong with one of our lights, RealTerm will engage a third-party electrical subcontractor," Najdek said. "We have to pay commission on top of whatever that subcontractor cost is."

The board members chose not to move forward with the proposal for the LED lights in the Village.

The Village Board will hold a public hearing on Monday, Jan. 27, at 6:05 p.m. on the 2025 Community Development Block Grant.

"This is for the upcoming year, new money available," said Najdek. "Typically, we've done Community Development Block Grant for sidewalks in the past."

North East opens bids for highway garage for new fencing to surround facility

By COLLEEN FLYNN
colleenf@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — On Thursday, Jan. 16, the Town of North East opened bids for the Highway garage's fencing installation.

The town received bids from eight different potential candidates with the ranging costs of \$166,000 to \$328,676.

Currently, the town's highway garage only has one side of the fencing completed and is looking to hire a company to install the other three sides. "The next step is we actually do a little research on the company that wins the bid, and we check the references ... make sure that they



PHOTO BY KRISTA A. BRIGGS

The stage is being literally set for "Clue" to be performed this spring by Webutuck students, whether their participation involves theatrical performance or set design.

Webutuck students plan return to stage in March with 'Clue'

By COLLEEN FLYNN
colleenf@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Webutuck's drama society will return to the stage with a board game-inspired murder mystery, "Clue," after a hiatus which began just prior to the pandemic.

Webutuck students ranging from elementary age to high school level will be performing in front of a live audience on March 28, 29 and 30, all at 7 p.m.

The story begins with six guests who are invited to a mansion for a dinner party with an anonymous host. Later, when the host is found to be dead, the guests and staff are forced to figure out the identity of the murderer.

Second-year chorus and music teacher Kaylee Kelsey is aiming to reestablish the district's drama club, with the club's first performance being "Clue." Kelsey has been teaching in the Webutuck district

in both the intermediate and high school.

The play was originally set to be performed solely by high school students and originally scheduled to lift the curtain in January. However, it will now be performed by a range of students in the district to allow for a more diverse theatrical experience. According to Kelsey, the younger students taking part in the play have little to no theater experience, but are doing very well.

can do what they say they're going to be able to do. Then the board has to accept their bid," Supervisor Chris Kennan said. "Just because bids have been submitted and somebody has the lowest

bid doesn't mean they have the job."

The process of building the new highway garage began in 2022 with most of the construction happening during 2023. The final touches

were wrapped up at the beginning of 2024. The new garage is now 12,720 square feet, which allows for more equipment to be stored and worked on — if needed — unlike the previous garage.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

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Panelists

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Dan Carr, owner of Beavertides Farm in Falls Village, CT, and BAV team member
Amanda Freund, third-generation farmer at Freund's Farm in East Canaan, CT
Peter Platt, chef and owner of The Old Inn on the Green in New Marlborough, MA

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PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Let's make snow globes!

Enthusiasts of all ages came together at the Amenia Free Library to create their own snow globes on Tuesday, Jan. 14. Program assistant Megan Marshall, creative mentor for the project, showed off a completed snow globe that participants could use as a model.

Amenia Housing Board takes aim at 2025 goals

By LEILA HAWKEN
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — The first Housing Board meeting of the year on Thursday, Jan. 16, brought the election of officers and the setting of goals for the year. The Housing Board unanimously re-elected Charlie Miller to serve as chairman and named Gaye Parise to serve as secretary. Recognizing the urgent need for workforce housing opportunities and the importance of communication, the Housing Board is planning an informational event to be held on Saturday, Feb. 22, at the Town Hall, between the hours of 10 a.m. and noon.

Miller noted that the event will offer an overview of workforce housing and describe the scope of the Amenia Housing Board. Dutchess County officials will attend, along with representatives from the County Board of Planning and Development, Miller said.

During the event, representatives from Hudson River Housing, a non-profit organization in Poughkeepsie will describe its work to provide affordable housing opportunities in area communities. The developer will discuss its project proposal now before the Amenia Planning Board.

Miller updated the Housing Board on the town Planning Board's preliminary review of a Hudson River Housing project on Cascade Road, now awaiting an accurate survey of the actual acreage involved, as well as a conservation assess-

ment of the site.

Once the acreage and conservation information have been submitted, then details of the site plan will be received and considered, Miller said.

"If we want to have a middle class, we have to provide housing choices," Miller added.

Communication was an agreed-upon goal for the coming year for the Housing Board.

Board member Juan Torres said that the board should seek to identify ways to smooth the process of getting a project started, to shorten that process and to remove impediments. Torres noted that the steps involved in project planning can be extremely costly to applicants.

Another housing goal to be explored will be Accessory Dwelling Units, where apartments might be created in existing homes where homeowners might want additional income.

During the public comment portion, four neighboring residents expressed concern about the Cascade Road higher-density affordable housing project being proposed by Hudson River Housing, particularly the impact a development might have on the existing stream and natural habitat. Also of concern was the effect of any development on water runoff volume and negative impact on neighboring properties. Fewer homes on larger lots was suggested as a viable alternative.

North East landfill selected for methane mitigation

By COLLEEN FLYNN
colleenf@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The Town of North East's landfill will be one of the recipients of biofilters to reduce the amount of methane it leaks into the community.

Early in September, the Hudson Valley Regional Council was selected to receive \$3 million through the Climate Pollution Reduction

Grant program, which will benefit 14 different towns.

"That is being organized by the Hudson Valley Regional Council," North East Town Supervisor Chris Kennan said. "They're going to be helping not just our town, but a whole group of towns ... which is to install mulch filters over the exhaust vents in town landfills."

With this grant the Hudson Valley Regional Council

can install biofilters which will decrease the amount of methane being released into the atmosphere from closed landfills within the Hudson Valley area, while also promoting the installation of solar arrays.

About 93% of emissions produced in the town of North East come from its landfill. This project will aim to reduce the amount of emissions the landfill leaks with

natural filters of mulch and woodchips containing methane-eating bacteria.

"I'll be surprised if it's even this year. They have a lot of work to do. It's not up to us to do that work," Kennan said. "It is the Hudson Valley Regional Council that has to do the work. They have to decide on what the right technology is, what's the right mulch, how much mulch."

Two Dover organizations receive Youth Wellness Support Microgrants from the county

By KRISTA A. BRIGGS
kristab@millertonnews.com

POUGHKEEPSIE — The third and final round of funding in support of the emotional wellbeing of young people in Dutchess has been awarded via the Youth Wellness Support Microgrants program, as per county executive Sue Serino. The aim of these grants, which will aid funding for six organizations in the county, is to encourage positive choices for young people such as refraining from substance use or engaging in other detrimental behaviors.

Of the six grant recipients, two are Dover-based. The Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue will offer young people in need of emotional support

the opportunity to work with equines with a focus on groundwork while building their mental wellness. The program will provide 16 sessions totaling 32 hours to groups of select students from Dover High School. The Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue will receive \$19,000 in grant monies in support of this program.

The Dover Plains Library Association will also receive \$19,000 in grants in support of their collaboration with Dover Elementary School, in which four school assemblies and additional evening programs for parents at the library will be offered as a means of connecting families in an educational and reflective environment.

Four additional organizations throughout the county were also on the receiving end of funding. Two Poughkeepsie-based organizations, the Dutchess County Pride Center, which will offer coping strategies and depression management for youth, and The Art Effect, which will create an animated youth-produced PSA on mental health as it relates to social media usage also received Youth Wellness Support Microgrants. The other two grant recipients were the Red Hook-based Hidden Hollow Farm Riding, which will provide programming in equine-based therapy and journaling for at-risk youth, and the Beatrix Farrand Garden Association in Hyde Park,

which will offer courses on garden design and African drumming for 100 young adults in need of direction. A combined total of \$105,924 in grants has been allotted to these programs.

County executive Serino voiced her support for these wellness initiatives for Dutchess youths, saying, "I'm proud to collaborate with programs that give our young people the tools they need to succeed and reach their full potential, while supporting their mental health and wellbeing. These grants are an important investment in their future, funding initiatives that encourage positive growth and help them navigate challenges with confidence."

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THE MILLERTON NEWS

EDITORIAL PAGE A5 THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025

Measles kills: A short history

He knows nothing and thinks he knows everything. That points clearly to a political career. —George Bernard Shaw

THE BODY SCIENTIFIC Richard Kessin

In 1962, about 500,000 American kids got measles, with fever and spots made by the immune system reacting with the virus. Many of us remember it as relatively benign and I have heard people say, 'I had it, and it wasn't so bad'. But we are not all the same; we are not inbred white mice. Some people respond differently; immune systems are complex and vary from one person to the next. About 20% of affected children had complications, usually encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain. Or they had diarrhea and dehydration. Many were hospitalized and about four hundred died. Year after year. That is hard to imagine now, because in 1963, a vaccine was produced by the legendary Dr. Sidney Hillman and his team at Merck. The Merck team made many vaccines and saved millions of lives.

After 1963, measles was one less thing for parents to worry about, along with polio, mumps, rubella, and then chickenpox. Whooping cough, diphtheria, and tetanus had been dealt with through earlier vaccines. Measles virus did not disappear, it was not eradicated like smallpox; It still stalks unvaccinated communities.

The measles virus is very contagious, more than SARS-CoV-2. Measles has another insidious property — it wrecks existing immune responses and not just a person's response to measles. Imagine a child in Africa, whose immune system is just managing to keep the malaria parasite at bay. A case of measles will depress the immune system, unleash the malaria parasite, and may kill the child. Measles virus is one of the great killers in Africa with 47,000 deaths in 2022. Most viruses have ways to suppress immune systems, but measles is a champion of immune suppression and contagion.

The vaccine is exceptionally effective. And measles returns when vaccination stops. In an under-vaccinated community, a single tourist shedding measles virus can start an epidemic. That is what happened in September 2019, in American Samoa, in the months before the Covid pandemic.

The ground had been prepared by Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who had visited Samoa, met with government officials, and told them and other people that the vaccine caused autism. In 2017, 74% of babies were vaccinated, which was already low, but by January 6, 2020, only 31 to 34% of newborns were

being vaccinated. Before the outbreak there were almost no cases of measles. A single infected tourist introduced the virus and by the 6th of January 2020 there were 5,700 cases and 83 deaths. The population is about 200,000 and about 100,000 doses of vaccine — measles, mumps and rubella — were administered. Schools were closed, and sports teams were idle — Samoans play rugby. People stayed home and hung out a red flag to summon the vaccination teams. Other islands in the region had 99% vaccination rates and no measles or noticeable increases in autism. Wikipedia has a lengthy article on the American Samoa measles outbreak, well as others in the South Pacific. An emergency response by Samoan health workers converted to vaccinators with help from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the public health agencies of New Zealand, Australia, Israel and French Polynesia and many other countries, and health agencies stamped out the measles epidemic by Jan. 22, 2020.

I do not know if there were any cases of autism among the thousands of children who were vaccinated, as Mr. Kennedy's theory predicts there would be. Did Mr. Kennedy even ask if autism had increased after thousands of kids got measles vaccine? There should have been a wave, according to his theory, but if you don't ask, the theory remains intact.

Raw data say no increase in autism occurred. The American Samoa Public Health website does not mention autism as a problem. I called the American Samoan Health Authorities. They were very cooperative and have not noticed anything of concern, but being competent officials said that they will do a deeper investigation. Numbers count. We will let you know the results.

The message from these events is simple: Be skeptical of people who never admit that they are wrong. Do not trust people whose message is meant to instill fear. Don't believe people who think they know, but don't. Do not put Robert F. Kennedy in charge of any American health agency, let alone all of them. Genial skepticism is a virtue that keeps people healthy, even alive.

Richard Kessin, PhD, is Professor Emeritus of Pathology and Cell Biology at the Columbia University Irving Medical Center.

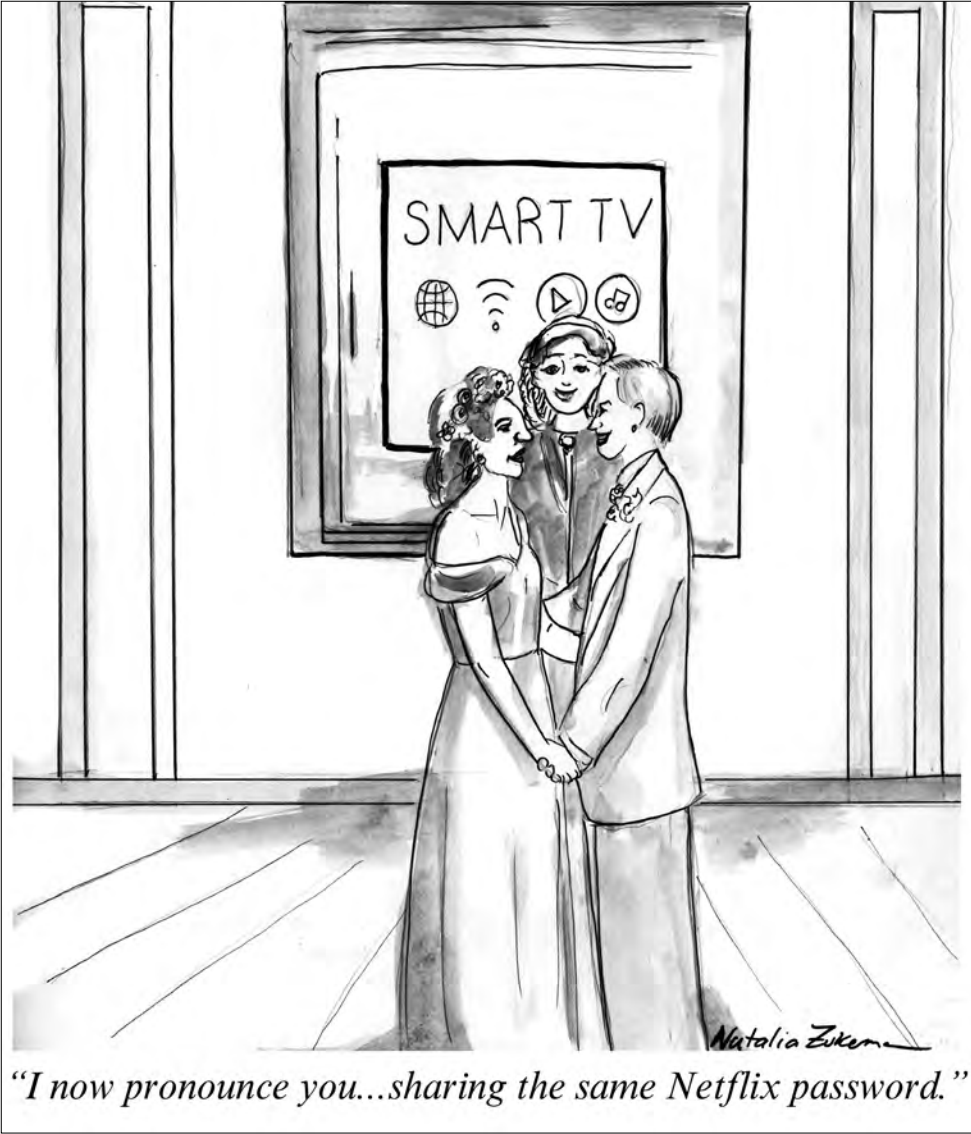
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Amenia Fire Co. thanks

On Sunday, Jan. 19, the Amenia Fire Company sponsored our monthly Pancake Breakfast. We were pleased to have a crowd of 151 people in attendance for our monthly meal. We rely on the breakfasts to raise needed money for general operations and we always appreciate the sup-

port of the community. We thank everyone who attends our events and we will return again on February 16.

Andy Murphy, on behalf of the Breakfast Committee Amenia Fire Co. and Auxillary Amenia



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Courthouse remodeling progress; Millerton Firemen's Ball; Reception for NYC TV channels

January 18, 1934

'Progress On Courthouse Remodeling, CWA Project, Reported by Architect'; Satisfactory progress is being made on the Dutchess County courthouse remodeling project, it was reported last week by William J. Beardsley, the architect in charge of the work. He stated that the job will be completed by Feb. 15, the date which terminates the emergency relief Civil Works Administration.

Windows have been installed on the third and fourth floors, green paint applied to the window trim, and plastering is also under way as is some of the terazza [sic] flooring. All partitions have been completed, and on the first floor the new steel supports have been finished. Marble trim and a special carved-face plaster job have been applied.

Some of the labor troubles have grown out of the inability to get special workers for the finer phases of the job, Mr. Beardsley stated, but for the present these obstacles have been overcome. Some difficulty was met in obtaining painters to do special decorating work, he added, but it is expected that this problem will be solved satisfactorily.

In discussing the fact that some observers had noticed that the sill course of the former third floor windows was left untouched, the architect said that these sills may eventually be cut away to the line of the brick outer wall provided the county authorities wish to have this done. It was impossible to remove the sills because they are set deep into the walls, and when the outside work was in progress the weather was too cold to trim the sills off to the face of the brick, Mr. Beardsley explained. This work may be done later with the use of suspension scaffolding, he said.

January 16, 1975

'Millerton Scout Help Sought'; In an effort to revitalize Scout Troop 43 in Millerton, a meeting of interested adults will be held Monday, Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall.

The purpose of the meeting is to form a working troop committee that will have the selection of a scoutmaster and the creation of a sound scouting program as part of

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Millerton News

its ongoing responsibilities. Adults willing to help with the project are asked to attend the meeting. For further information, call Dick Meyer.

'Firemen's Ball Set For Feb. 15'; The Millerton Fire Department will hold its 13th Annual Fireman's Ball on Feb. 15 at the Fire House. Dancing will be from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., with the music of Bill Patzwall.

Tickets are \$3 per couple. They must be bought in advance and there will be no tickets sold at the door. Anyone wishing to purchase tickets can do so by contacting any local fireman, or by contacting the co-chairmen of the dance, Kenneth Rossman or Bud Kilmer.

January 20, 2000

'Wiring Will Improve Cablevision Reception'; MILLERTON — Motorists traveling down Route 44 through Lakeville and Millerton during the last couple of weeks may have noticed an unusual amount of wiring activity.

The new wiring will benefit all customers served by Cablevision of Dutchess County, according to Emilie Spaulding, Cablevision's director of governmental relations.

Optimum, a division of Cablevision, began work during the last week of December on stringing fiber optic cable from Litchfield, Conn., to one of Cablevision's nodes in Millerton.

"They worked all the way through the holidays," said Ms. Spaulding.

The result will be improved reception of lower-end over-the-air channels from New York City, such as channels 2 (WCBS), 4 (WNBC) and 7 (WABC).

Currently, Cablevision receives its signal for those channels from an antenna atop its Wingdale regional facility. The old-fashioned method of gathering the signal makes for occasional lapses in picture quality, mostly because of varying atmospheric conditions and passing aircraft.

"I know it seems like a

circuitous route," Ms. Spaulding explained, "but the lower channels will now be coming via fiber optic directly from [New York] City, which will make those channels much clearer for our customers."

The system upgrade, which will cost the company about \$200,000, should be complete by the end of the month.

"People will know when it will be done because the lower channels will be dramatically better," Ms. Spaulding surmised.

The splicing of fiber optic cable is a relatively delicate and time-consuming process, so the new fiber optic cables will be spliced into Cablevision's system in the middle of the night, temporarily disrupting service.

"But the only people who will notice will be insomniacs or those who work very late," Ms. Spaulding said.

Cablevision had to obtain permission from TCI of Northwestern Connecticut to run the cable through its territory.

Cablevision serves 10 municipalities in Dutchess County, including Millerton,

North East and Amenia.

'Medical Services for Veterans Expand'; MILLERTON — Medical services for local veterans will be expanded in Millerton under an outreach initiative by the Veterans Administration Hospital at Castle Point, according to American Legion Post No. 178 Commander Barbara Sabatine.

The mobile medical van from the V.A. Hospital normally visits the Legion Hall on the first Tuesday of every month, providing podiatry and optometry services.

Starting Monday, Jan. 24, a medical doctor will be on hand as well. Veterans who are registered with the V.A. will be called to set up appointments. Those who do not receive a call or a letter can show up on Jan. 24 or Jan. 26 to register in person for the free service. Organizers hope to set up physicals for all veterans who need one.

The mobile medical van serves veterans from surrounding communities as well. Organizers hope to one day have a permanent veterans clinic in the area.

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THE MILLERTON NEWS (USPS 384600)
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LJM Media, Inc., Publishers of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News
Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.

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OUR TOWNS

Dan Egan, author of ‘The Devil’s Element’, explores phosphorous and algae at Cary

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@lakevillejournal.com

MILLBROOK — Bestselling author and veteran journalist Dan Egan joined Jane Lucas at the Cary Institute in Millbrook for an interview and discussion on his latest book, “The Devil’s Element,” Thursday, Jan. 16.

Fluffy white snowflakes were falling on the dark Cary Institute campus as eager visitors streamed inside to escape the cold and hear about phosphorous, the element Dan Egan said is too-often overlooked for its monumental importance to life on Earth.

Egan’s fascination with the fertilizing element started while he was working as a journalist covering the ecological devastation of Lake Erie. That lake, he said, was one of many victims of phosphorous.

Phosphorous is an important element to modern human life. Egan described the botanical concept of the



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Dan Egan joined Cary Institute researcher Jane Lucas for a discussion on his bestselling book “The Devil’s Element,” at the Cary Institute in Millbrook Thursday, Jan. 16. Egan’s book is a comprehensive look at the ecological problems posed by phosphorous.

“limiting element,” or the observation that the least abundant ingredient for life will be the limiting factor. In the early days of botanical

chemistry, this was a huge discovery. Once scientists could isolate elements like phosphorous, nitrogen and potassium, and they under-

stood the role they played in plant growth, food production sky rocketed.

Egan credits the fertilizer revolution as the sole reason why the planet can support a human population of seven billion and counting, but he said our dependence and misuse of chemical fertilizers has huge consequences for our communities.

Egan’s research points to a growing body of evidence suggesting phosphorous contamination can turn rivers and freshwater lakes lethal with toxic algal blooms.

What’s more, toxic algal blooms caused by phosphorous contamination can even be swept out to sea, which occurred in Mississippi in 2019. That year, massive flooding in the Mississippi river basin forced the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to open the Bonnet Carré spillway on the Mississippi river in Louisiana on two separate occasions for an annual total of 122 days. The deluge of fresh water diluted the Gulf of Mexico enough that it

could support the freshwater toxic algae that plague Lake Erie and other waters across the country. That summer, the state of Mississippi had to close its beaches all year long because of a huge bloom just off its shores.

In the question and answer portion, one concerned audience member asked what could be done to fix the problem. Egan said the issue isn’t one individuals can change on their own. The root of the problem, he said, is industrial agriculture. Fertilizer pollution is historically under regulated, and he said many businesses haven’t realized the utility of reclaiming phosphorous until recently.

Copies of Egan’s book are available for sale at Merritt Bookstore in Millbrook. The Cary Institute hosts regular science seminars and ecology lectures. A full list of planned events can be found online at www.caryinstitute.org.

Salisbury Association opens new preserve

By ALEC LINDEN
alecl@lakevillejournal.com

SALISBURY, Conn. — Another 47 acres of pristine Salisbury woodland are now open to the public, thanks to the completion of a hiking trail on the Hecht Preserve located on Route 112.

The Salisbury Association Land Trust acquired the land from John and Mary Belter and Helen Belter Hill in late 2023, aided by funding from the Connecticut Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program, U.S. Fish & Wildlife’s Highlands Act, and a generous donation from the Anne and Rollin Bates Foundation.

A little over a year after purchase, the parcel is now available for public use via a 1.3 mile loop trail, which the Trust rates as moderately difficult. Parking for the trail is located at the entrance to Wack Forest along Route 112 about a half mile west of the intersection with Wells Hill Road.

The trail was originally

meant to be opened by summer 2024, though the process was delayed as the parking is along a state highway, meaning the Trust had to apply for approval from the Department of Transportation, Trust Co-chair John Landon said.

As it abuts the town-owned Wack Forest, the opening of the Hecht Preserve has created a much larger publicly accessible protected area. The terrain comprises a wooded hillside and ridgeline, and is dissected by a clean, cold-water stream that provides valuable habitat for native fish and other aquatic species.

The rest of the property is ecologically rich, with a mixture of younger and older forest and several key habitat types. “There’s definitely a lot of wildlife in that area,” Landon said, noting the occasional bear sighting.

The preserve was named to honor Lou and Elaine Hecht, longtime contributors to the Trust. Lou was co-chair of the Trust for 17 years and remains an emeritus trustee.



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

The trailhead for the newly opened preserve.

“Lou and Elaine have been huge supporters of the Land Trust for many years,” Landon said. “They’ve just contributed so much to the town and have educated people about the importance of the environment.”

‘Snowy the Snow Plow’ among Kellogg kindergarten’s top names for Falls Village fleet of plows

By PATRICK L. SULLIVAN
patrick@lakevillejournal.com

FALLS VILLAGE, Conn. — Lee H. Kellogg School’s kindergartners recently took on the challenge to name the town’s four snow plows.

Spearheaded by Kindergarten teacher Amelia Nichols and supported by First Selectman Dave Barger, the project offered a hands-on learning experience for students while fostering local connections.

The youngsters studied snow plows through books and discussions, and applied their geometry skills by creating models of their own snow plows.

The grand finale was a democratic process where the students voted on names for the vehicles.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Falls Village’s snow plows have new names courtesy of the creative kindergartners at Lee H. Kellogg School. The winning names were: Snowy the Snow Plow, The Ice Demolisher, The Blizzard Buster and The Snow Breaker.

The winning names were: Snowy the Snow Plow, The Ice Demolisher, The Blizzard Buster and The Snow Breaker. As a special surprise, mem-

bers of the Falls Village Town Roads Crew visited the school with their snow plows, giving the children a chance to see the named machines up close.

A work in progress

With the purchase of Millerton Square Plaza complete, work has begun on its transformation. A new supermarket, owned and operated by Chris and Kim Choe, proprietors of Sharon Market, is slated to open in the space, possibly by this spring.



PHOTO BY KRISTA A. BRIGGS

— THE —

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OUR TOWNS

New syringe production line up and running at BD

By DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS
Special to The Millerton News

NORTH CANAAN, Conn. — New production lines installed in 2024 at Becton, Dickinson and Company's Connecticut and Nebraska plants are now pumping out critical medical devices — including syringes, needles and IV catheters — to meet the needs of the nation's health care system.

One syringe production line is already fully operational at the vaccine manufacturer's 385,000 square foot North Canaan plant, with additional lines expected to start up in the coming months, the global medical technology firm announced on Jan. 15.

The new production lines will boost BD's capacity for safety-engineered injection devices by more than 40% and conventional syringes by more than 50%, adding millions of units annually to support hospital procedures, vaccinations, medication preparation and drug delivery to patients, company officials said.

The Connecticut plant manufactures small-size syringes and syringe and needle combination products. Operations take place around the clock and are sold in every region worldwide.

"Domestic manufacturing is crucial for ensuring a resilient supply of essential healthcare devices," said Eric



Becton, Dickson and Company's North Canaan plant opened in 1961 with eight employees and a 25,000 square foot facility. Today the operation employs more than 540 people and encompasses 385,000 square feet.

Borin, president of Medication Delivery Solutions at BD.

"By expanding our production capacity, we are not only meeting the critical needs of patients and providers, but we also are reinforcing our commitment to the nation's health care infrastructure," Borin said.

To support this production, the vaccine manufacturer has hired more than 215 full-time employees at its facilities in Nebraska and Connecticut, with more than 145 of those jobs based in North Canaan, boosting that plant's employee roster to more than 540.

The North Canaan plant, which opened in 1961 with eight employees and a 25,000 square foot facility, is Northwest Connecticut's largest employer.

In 2024, the company invested more than \$10 million to expand its manufacturing capacity at its Connecticut and Nebraska facilities in response to quality issues with plastic syringes imported from China which were un-

covered in late 2023 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

In late November 2023, the FDA announced its probe into reports of quality issues with China-made plastic syringes not cleared by the FDA, and in August 2024 recommended that healthcare providers "use syringes not manufactured in China, if possible."

At that time, Fallon McLoughlin, director of public relations and corporate communications for the Franklin Lakes, New Jersey-based company, announced production lines and production staff were being relocated to North Canaan from other BD plants as part of the expansion.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice
GENERAL GEORGE LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 12/12/2024, Office location: DUTCHESS COUNTY, NY. SSNY is designated as agent upon which process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 4957 NY-22 Amenia, NY 12501. Purpose: any lawful.

01-02-25
01-09-25
01-16-25
01-23-25
01-30-25
02-06-25

Legal Notice
Notice of Formation of Pretty Little Closet, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/15/24. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Crystal Smith 124 Sharon Road, Millerton, NY 12546. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

12-12-24
12-19-24
12-26-24
01-02-25
01-09-25
01-16-25

Legal Notice
Notice of formation of Timothy Capowski LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on December 2, 2023. Office location: P.O. Box 785, 42 Maple Avenue, Millbrook, NY, 12545, Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC: P.O. Box 785, 42 Maple Avenue, Millbrook, NY, 12545. Purpose: law practice (appellate litigation and consulting).

01-09-25
01-16-25
01-23-25
01-30-25
02-06-25
02-13-25

Legal Notice
Notice of formation of limited liability company. Articles of Organization of BLACK BARN EVs LLC were filed on September 27, 2024 with the Secretary of State of New York. The LLC has an office in Dutchess County, NY. The NY Sec of State is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against LLC may be served. The SSNY shall mail process to: 17 South Quaker Hill Road, Pawling NY 12564. The LLC does not have a specific date of dissolution. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act.

01-09-25

01-16-25
01-23-25
01-30-25
02-06-25
02-13-25

LEGAL NOTICE OF ESTOPPEL
The bond resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on December 5, 2024, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the Town of Amenia, Dutchess County, New York, is not authorized to expend money, or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution. Such resolution was subject to permissive referendum. The period of time has elapsed for the submission and filing of a petition for a permissive referendum, and a valid petition has not been submitted and filed in connection with such resolution.

A complete copy of the resolution summarized herewith is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Office of the Town Clerk for a period of twenty days from the date of publication of this Notice.

Dated: Amenia, New York, January 17, 2025.
/s/ Dawn Marie Klingner
Town Clerk

BOND RESOLUTION DATED DECEMBER 5, 2024.
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HIGHWAY GARAGE AND SALT STORAGE SHED, AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$6,333,449, IN AND FOR THE TOWN OF AMENIA, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$6,333,449 BONDS OF SAID TOWN TO PAY THE COST THEREOF.

Class of objects or purposes: Construction of a New Highway Garage and Salt Storage Shed on a Town-owned parcel of land on the east side of Route 22 between South Simpach Road and Tower Hill Road

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Hearing will be held in the Webutuck High School Library on February 3, 2025 at 6:30p.m. p.m. prevailing time, for the purpose of receiving community input on amending the existing exemption tiers and maximum income thresholds entitling qualified senior citizens to a tax exemption pursuant to New York State Real Property Tax Law §459.

Therese Trotter
District Clerk, Northeast (Webutuck) Central School District
01-23-25

Notice of Receipt of Tax Roll and Warrant
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Eileen Ciaburri the Tax Collector for the Town of Pine Plains, has received the Tax Roll for 2025 and will be collecting taxes during the month of February 2025 at the Town Hall, 3284 Route 199 East, Pine Plains New York, on Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10:00AM to 1:00 PM and during the months of March, April & May on Tuesday and Thursday 10:00AM-1:00PM. Taxes collected through the month of February 2025 are without penalty. Penalties are levied as follows: March 2 percent, April 3 percent, May 4 percent.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that pursuant to the provisions of the law, the Tax Roll of the Town of Pine Plains will be returned to the County Treasurer of the County of Dutchess on the first day of June 2025.

Eileen Ciaburri
Tax Collector
Town of Pine Plains
01-23-25
01-30-25

Period of probable usefulness: 30 years, subject to permissive referendum
Maximum estimated cost: \$6,333,449
Amount of obligations to be issued: \$6,333,449
serial bonds
SEQRA status: Unlisted Action. Negative Declaration. SEQRA compliance materials on file in the office of the Town Clerk where they may be inspected during regular office hours by appointment.

01-23-25

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Hearing will be held in the Webutuck High School Library on February 3, 2025 at 6:30p.m. p.m. prevailing time, for the purpose of receiving community input on amending the existing exemption tiers and maximum income thresholds entitling qualified senior citizens to a tax exemption pursuant to New York State Real Property Tax Law §459.

Therese Trotter
District Clerk, Northeast (Webutuck) Central School District
01-23-25

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF DUTCHESS
NEWREZ LLC

D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING, Plaintiff, - against- UNKNOWN HEIRS OF PATRICIA R. ANZALONE, if living, and if he/she be dead, any and all persons unknown to plaintiff, claiming, or who may claim to have an interest in, or generally or specific lien upon the real property described in this action; such unknown persons being herein generally described and intended to be included in the following designation, namely: the wife, widow, husband, widower, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors, and assignees of such deceased, any and all persons deriving interest in or lien upon, or title to said real property by, through or under them, or either of them, and their respective wives, widows, husbands, widowers, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors and assigns, all of whom and whose names, except as stated, are unknown to plaintiff ; BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF REAGAN'S MILL HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; DISCOVER BANK; LVNV FUNDING LLC; ANTHONY ANZALONE; ROSEMARIE ANZALONE; MICHAEL F. ANZALONE, III; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, Defendants. INDEX # 2022-51944 Original filed with Clerk July 6, 2022 Plaintiff Designates Dutchess County as the Place of Trial. The Basis of Venue is that the subject action is situated in Dutchess County. Premises: 45 Riverdale Drive Wingdale, NY 12594. TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the Plaintiff's Attorney(s) within 20 days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); the United States of America may appear or answer within 60 day of service hereof; and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default

for the relief demanded in the Complaint. Said Supplemental Summons and Amended Complaint are being filed pursuant to Court Order dated November 20, 2024.

STATEMENT OF THE NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT
This is an action to foreclose and mortgage dated March 22, 2016, executed by the Defendant, Patricia R. Anzalone, to Intercontinental Capital Group, Inc., to secure the sum of \$289,682.00, which Mortgage was duly recorded in the Dutchess County Clerk's Office on April 15, 2016 as Instrument Number 01-2016-2277. NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this Summons and Complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. Dated: December 6, 2024 Uniondale, New York. Respectfully submitted, Pincus Law Group, PLLC. By: Linda P. Manfredi, Esq., Attorneys for Plaintiff, 425 RXR Plaza Uniondale, NY 11556, 516-699-8902

01-16-25
01-23-25
01-30-25
02-06-25

TOWN OF NORTH EAST, DUTCHESS COUNTY
NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF TAX BILLS AND WARRANT
TAKE NOTICE, that I, Elizabeth "Tilly" Strauss, the undersigned Collector of Taxes of the Town of North East, County of Dutchess and State of New York, have duly received the Tax Rolls and Warrant for the collection of property taxes within the Town of North East for fiscal year 2025. Collection of taxes will begin with the receipt of taxes through February 28, 2025 at the Town Hall, 19 N. Maple

Ave, Millerton, New York, on the following days and times: Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; and FEBRUARY ONLY Fridays and Saturdays 9:00 a.m.-noon. Checks are to be made payable to "North East Tax Collector".

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that taxes may be paid on or before February 28, 2025 without penalty. All taxes received after that date shall have an added interest of 2% for the month of March, 3% for the month of April, and 4% for the month of May. In addition, after May 15th, a fee of \$2.00 will be added for each parcel.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that after June 1st, 2025 all unpaid taxes will be turned over to Dutchess County Commissioner of Finance, 22 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. Dated: January 3, 2025.

Elizabeth Strauss Town Clerk/North East Tax Collector
01-16-25
01-23-25

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF AMENIA
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of Amenia will conduct a PUBLIC HEARING on the 6th day of February, 2025, at 7:00PM at the Town Hall, Town of Amenia, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, New York 12501, at which time all parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to offer comments and suggestions on the Town's intended use of Community Development Block Grant Funds for calendar year 2025. Following the Public Hearing, the Town intends to make application for Community Development Block Grant Funds pursuant to the Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development's Community Development Block Grant Program.

All parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard upon said matter at such hearing. Dated: Amenia, New York January 16, 2025.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD
DAWN MARIE KLINGNER,
TOWN CLERK
01-23-25

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

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

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

CELL SERVICE *Continued from Page A1*

but that's not the only challenge emergency responders face because of spotty, slow service.

Hikers hitting the hills often travel through dead zones. The region's rugged terrain — while scenic and inviting to hikers — hurts coverage. Hills block signals from distant towers, so if hikers have an accident in a remote area they may have trouble getting in touch with emergency services. Howard said Amentia's rope crew will ask for coordinates, but sometimes the hiker can't provide good information. "Then they're hiking blind," Howard said.

Cell phone tower construction is slow in rural areas across the United States, but several key factors contribute to subpar service in Northeast Dutchess County and the Litchfield Hills. Chief among them are the challenges presented by rugged, undeveloped land. Regions with lots of hills, few people and less power and telecommunications infrastructure are more difficult and costly to service than suburban or urban areas, according to a 2019 New York Upstate Cellular Coverage Task Force report.

John Emra, AT&T's Atlantic region president, said cell towers require power and fiber optic connections, and many rural sites don't already have that infrastructure. Another consideration is access. Towers can't be too remote, otherwise emergency repairs are too difficult. However, they can't be too close to large groups of people. Often, service roads have to be built to sites on remote ridgelines and hilltops. All this drives up the

cost of cell tower construction, and the 2019 cell coverage task force report says the higher cost disincentivizes rural investment.

That report also cites local zoning codes as a potential hurdle for construction, but Emra said regulations don't completely halt progress. In his 24 years with AT&T, he said rural communities have become increasingly open to cell tower construction and upgrades. Building codes in Northeast Dutchess County and the Litchfield Hills still present unique challenges for cell towers. Special attention is paid to ridgelines and scenic views in the area, so tall towers on high hills are discouraged through local laws. However, cell towers constructed in valleys or on the sides of ridges are less effective, covering much smaller areas because of the hills blocking the signal.

"Even 10 years ago if you proposed a new site — particularly in Litchfield County, Connecticut — you would likely meet some fairly fierce community resistance," Emra said. "I've seen the change where we now have communities asking us to build." He said AT&T recently finished a project at a site near Stanfordville, New York, and there's a site near Salisbury, Connecticut, which should be online by the end of the year. Additionally, AT&T has built cell antennas across Dutchess County called "small cell nodes," which are installed on utility poles but provide coverage over shorter distances than a full-size tower.

Representatives from Verizon did not respond to requests for comment.

'Quad-demic' of viral infections stokes rise in illness, medical intervention this winter season

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

SHARON, Conn. — The expected trio of winter viruses have arrived — and they brought a new friend with them.

Post-holiday cases of influenza, COVID-19 and Respiratory Syncytial Virus — commonly known as RSV — have spiked in recent weeks, joined by widespread cases of norovirus, commonly known as the "stomach bug."

"Definitely we're seeing plenty of all of them," said Dr. Mark Marshall, Sharon Hospital's vice president of medical affairs.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported on Friday, Jan. 17, that the amount of acute respiratory illness causing people to seek healthcare remains high across the nation and in Connecticut.

"Emergency department visits related to COVID-19 are elevated compared to fall and highest among young children and older adults," according to a CDC report. "Visits for RSV are highest among young children, and visits for influenza remain elevated among all age groups."

In recent weeks, Sharon Hospital has experienced a spike in Emergency Department admissions for flu, RSV, COVID-19 and norovirus.

"I would say that the last few weeks, from mid- to late-December through the first week of January, were exceedingly busy with a large volume of patients in the emergency department and a large number of admissions

to the hospital for respiratory or GI viruses," Marshall said. "I think we may actually be on the downturn a little bit, but there was a period where we were seeing a ton of RSV and COVID and flu ... and norovirus was hot."

He described norovirus as a gastrointestinal illness which causes severe vomiting and diarrhea. Older adults and very young children, he said, are particularly prone to serious dehydration.

Unlike respiratory viruses which spread via droplets, norovirus is spread via contact, such as touching contaminated surfaces or eating contaminated food.

The CDC reported that norovirus has been more common this season, with at least 495 outbreaks as of mid-December, about 36% higher than the previous year.

Severe year for flu

The CDC reported on Jan. 15 that the number of weekly flu hospital admissions continues to rise across the country, and that in the last week, 20 children have died from influenza-associated conditions.

The CDC reported that 18.8% of people who tested for influenza received positive results, pointing to an upward trend.

Of those who tested for COVID-19, 6.6% received positive test results, which the CDC described as a "stable" trend.

Meanwhile, the test positivity rate for RSV has

slowed, with 8.9% of those tested receiving positive results.

Overall, the amount of flu and COVID-19 currently circulating in much of the nation, including Connecticut, is in the "high" category, the CDC reported last week.

Which virus do I have?

So how do you know

people who get the vaccine still get COVID, it reduces their risk of severe disease."

Health officials' recommended treatment for most of these infections includes resting, staying home when sick, getting adequate nutrition, washing your hands and drinking plenty of fluids. The CDC recommends

that people in the community with COVID-19, influenza or RSV should remain home until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-

reducing medications and symptoms are improving.

Marshall also noted that there are several antiviral treatments available for at-risk people, including Paxlovid for COVID-19 and Tamiflu for influenza.

HMPV threat?

In recent weeks reports of a wave of hospitalizations from another respiratory illness known as human metapneumovirus, or HMPV, which is sweeping across China, has stoked fears of a new global pandemic.

The virus causes symptoms similar to COVID-19, including fever, persistent cough and congestion — and in severe cases leads to pneumonia.

Marshall noted that HMPV has been around for years and most people encounter this virus in childhood. At this time, he said, he does not see it as an imminent threat.

"I don't believe what is happening in China represents the early signs of a new pandemic."

"There was a period of time when we were seeing a ton of RSV, COVID and flu come in and norovirus was hot."

— **Dr. Mark Marshall, vice president of medical affairs, Sharon Hospital**

which respiratory virus rallied your immune system?

Sharon Hospital's Marshall noted that symptoms for the "big three" — flu, RSV and COVID-19 — are similar, as are their courses of infection and complications.

The only way to positively determine which bug has invaded your cells is to get tested.

"If you are ill and seek treatment, you can test for these viruses individually or there is even a single swab test for flu, RSV and COVID," he said. "Both the updated influenza and COVID vaccines are recommended, and it's not too late for a flu vaccine."

Flu, COVID-19 and RSV are all more dangerous to older adults and very young children, along with people with chronic illnesses and co-morbidities, including those who are immunocompromised, noted the Sharon Hospital physician.

Vaccines, he said, have been shown to reduce ICU admissions by 25%, and deaths by 30%. "And even if

CANNABIS *Continued from Page A1*

Resident Judge Moran also opposed the proposal, although she would favor helping those who need it for medicinal use to find more convenient, safe access.

Before the meeting ended, councilmember Paul Winters defended the cannabis dispensary proposal indicating no referendum was held on the Town Board's 2022 opting out of the state regulations, and questioned whether a referendum should be held to opt in. He noted the town of Pine Plains has opted in to allow for dispensaries.

"Drugs will be here whether you regulate or not," Winters said, adding, "Society is changing."

Councilmember Hamm said she would like to hear from the voters on the matter.

Term Limits

Councilmember Winters introduced two measures to effect a change in length of terms on the Town Board suggesting that the questions

be voted on at referendum.

Under one proposal, the term of service for the Town Supervisor would change from two to four years, to equal the length of term of councilmembers. Under a second proposal, councilmembers would be limited to four consecutive four-year terms, or a limit of 16 years.

Councilmember Hamm did not see a need for the limits, recalling that a 2016 ballot question proposing term limits was rejected by voters by a wide margin.


Town Supervisor Leo Blackman expressed his opinion that the idea of term limits seemed undemocratic, that voters make their determinations when they vote.

Following discussion, the board agreed to allow voters at referendum to determine whether the Town Supervisor's term should be lengthened from two to four years. The vote was 3 to 1, with Hamm voting in the negative.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

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In my search to understand our countryside here in NW Connecticut more fully, I came upon a wonderful book written by Leila Philip entitled *Beaver Land*. Exhaustively researched, Leila details the history of beavers from pre-colonial times to present day and how important they are to restoring our ecosystems. I found her writing and observations compelling on how this animal creates their own ecosystem that improves water quality, reduces flooding risk and creates habitat for a diversity of wildlife. Her final conclusion is that, much like the ancient Japanese art of Kintsugi, beavers serve to repair and restore a broken landscape. For more information, please visit: www.leilaphilip.com



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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

LIFESTYLE: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

'Gather' at Troutbeck

Hosted by Jason Klein and Sascha Lewis, an ongoing series called "Gather" at Troutbeck in Amenia brings together a curious crowd of local entrepreneurs, artists, and others with a story to tell for an intimate midday chat. On Thursday, Jan. 16, floral designer Romane Recalde, owner of the newly opened Le Jardin in Amenia, took center stage to share her journey from modeling in Miami to cultivating flowers in the Hudson Valley. Gather is a place to share stories, swap advice, and celebrate some of the unique businesses that make our area vibrant — all with a delicious lunch on the side. The gatherings are unconventional in the best way, with no agenda beyond good conversation and community building.

Recalde's story isn't just about creating a flower shop; it's about a complete reinvention of self. "I hated Miami so much," said the French-born Recalde, recalling her time in Florida before moving to New York. She worked as a model in New York, and eventually met her husband, James. Their pandemic escape to Turks and Caicos turned into a six-month stay, which in turn led them to Millbrook and finally to their home in Amenia, where Recalde's connection to nature blossomed.

"We had all this land for the first time," said Recalde, who started with a vegetable garden. "I had absolutely no idea what I was doing, but I did some research and found information about planting flowers to bring in pollinators. When I saw flowers bloom in my garden I was like, 'Oh my God! This is what a flower is supposed to look like,' laughed Recalde. "I became obsessed, and I knew the next year I wanted a flower farm." In the spring, she began planting. "I signed up for the farmer's market in Millerton and I didn't even know if I would have flowers to sell. But I did! I figured it out."

Recalde's trajectory from hobbyist to business owner has come with its fair share of challenges, not least of which is the perishable nature of flowers. "Winter is definitely harder," said Recalde, explaining how she imports flowers during the colder months while



PHOTOS BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN
Romane Recalde and Jason Klein at Gather

also nurturing seeds in a neighbor's greenhouse. Despite these hurdles, the most rewarding part for her has been seeing the impact her flowers have on people. "It's amazing to hear people say, 'You don't know how much this meant to me,'" she said, reflecting on the joy of seeing her arrangements in clients' homes and weddings.

Klein, a board member of the Wassaic Project, co-founder of software development company ListenFirst, and a self-professed connector of creative minds, underscored the value of these conversations. "People here are doing such interesting things," he said. "It's a little funky because it's in the middle of the day, so it definitely appeals to folks with weird schedules — usually people who are business owners or self-employed." He's hosted about five of these Gather sessions which have grown in attendance; this month's event was sold out. "It's a nice way to put a spotlight on something that's exciting that might be hidden away," he said, noting how the Gather series has allowed him to bring together a range of people — from business owners like Will Schenk,

owner of the Cornwall Market who's starting a chocolate business, to local political figures like Justin Potter.

Questions from attendees included how to juggle time and schedules as a business owner and how to deal with the seemingly shifting world of marketing and self-promotion. "Word of mouth has been amazing," Recalde said as she shared that it's been the community's enthusiasm that has helped her new business take off. "Honestly, everybody has been so supportive and helpful," she added, citing both Instagram and local chatter as key drivers in her success.

During the event, Eliot Wadsworth from White Flower Farm

spoke briefly about continuing his family's legacy, a perfect complement to the conversation about sustainability and the challenges of building a business in a small town.

Lauren Kemner, Troutbeck's culture and commerce manager, said, "We love inviting people to Troutbeck, letting folks know that we're open to the public. This program is such a great way to build community."



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Mad Rose Gallery director Michael Flowers contributed to the gallery's "Assembled" exhibit with a series of collaged landscape photographs

ART: NATHAN MILLER

Mad Rose opens 'Assembled' exhibition

Mad Rose Gallery's "Assembled" exhibition opened Saturday, Jan. 18, with a public reception.

The eclectic exhibition — on view until March 2 at the gallery on the intersection of Routes 22 and 44 in Millerton — gathers together work from a group of diverse artists with decades of experience between them. The exhibition itself is true

to the name, featuring photographs, sculptures, drawings and mixed media works in all shapes and sizes.

The collected works include the photographs of Arthur Hillman, Bruce Panock and Mad Rose's gallery director Michael Lavin Flower; drawings and mixed media works

Continued on next page

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COMPASS

BOOKS: LAURIE FENDRICH

The fragile bonds of family: a review of Betsy Lerner's 'Shred Sisters'

Betsy Lerner's 'Shred Sisters' is written with such verve and poetic imagination that it's hard to fathom how it could be the author's first novel. Ms. Lerner, 64, has worked for three decades as a literary agent, editor, and non-fiction writer, but at some point during the Covid pandemic — without any forethought — she sat down and typed out the first line of the novel exactly as it now appears in the book, and then completed it without telling anyone what she was up to.

The novel takes place over twenty years — from the 1970s into the '90s — and is a kind of guide for that era. It reads like a memoir accompanied by some bouncy dialogue, but is actually a work of what's called autofiction in which Lerner mixes her own experiences — including her own struggle with mental illness — with things she simply makes up. The fictional narrator is Amy Shred, the younger of two sisters

in an upper-middle-class, secular Jewish family living in the suburbs of New Haven, Connecticut.

What begins as the older sister Ollie's impulsiveness, rebelliousness and unpredictable outbursts expands logarithmically in intensity and severity until she reaches her teens and starts disappearing from home for long stretches of time. Soon she falls into that special circle of Hell reserved for the mentally ill — drugs, sleeping on the street, random hookups, sex work, petty thievery and grand larceny. Because her parents can afford it, she spends long periods of time in a private psychiatric hospital, but to no avail.

Ollie's mental illness leads to multiple chaotic events within the Shred family, all narrated by Amy, who simultaneously loves, loathes, and fears her sister. At times, Amy reveals herself to be almost as self-centered and self-deluded as Ollie. Yet Lerner brings empathy to all her characters' plights,



and never romanticizes or medicalizes Ollie's life. My only quibble in the author's otherwise superb wordsmanship is with her overuse of similes. Hers are individually imaginative and powerful, sometimes even brilliant — e.g., "...his

arm hooking me like the long cane in a vaudeville act," or "the magnolias now in full plumage like fat ostriches" — but with so many of them, their impact is weakened.

On Amy's account, she and Ollie couldn't be more different. Ollie is

the beautiful, charming child who grows into a beautiful adult who uses that beauty and charm to manipulate her parents, strangers, lovers, doctors, the police and even, on occasion, her sister. Amy, on the other hand, is decidedly not beautiful. But her intelligence, passion for science and inner drive to excel propel her forward — to college and then a fellowship in a science lab. It's then that she meets the first love of her life, who turns out to be almost as messed up and exploitative as her sister. Eventually, Amy pivots away from science — as well as her first love — and lands a job in publishing, while Ollie moves about among various lovers, erratically showing up only when she needs something.

In a virtual talk with the author sponsored by

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, in collaboration with Essex Library Association and Darien Library on Thursday, Jan. 16, Ms. Lerner said, "Shred Sisters is a coming-of-age novel that took me about 45 years to write." It's also a compassionate and compelling story about the complex nature of sisterly love in the face of the terrorizing nature of mental illness. At first glance, it might seem its appeal is only to women, but anyone will find it translates into a story about sibling relationships in general, as well as the exhaustion that comes with living in any fragile family.

Laurie Fendrich is an abstract painter, professor emerita at Hofstra University and vice-president of American Abstract Artists. She lives in Lakeville.

... Mad Rose *Continued from previous page*

of Karen Dolmanisth and Emily Rutgers Fuller; and Kim Saul's kitchen cabinet shadow-box sculptures.

The works share a common transience despite their many differences. Arthur Hillman's large-scale photographic prints feature otherwise still flower beds streaked by camera movement. Kim Saul's colorful kitchen cabinets evoke mystical alchemy, the art of change whose practitioners sought to transform lead into gold. Michael Flowers's collaged panoramas present fragmented, overlapping landscapes featuring conflicting winds and double images.

All the works featured in the exhibition are for

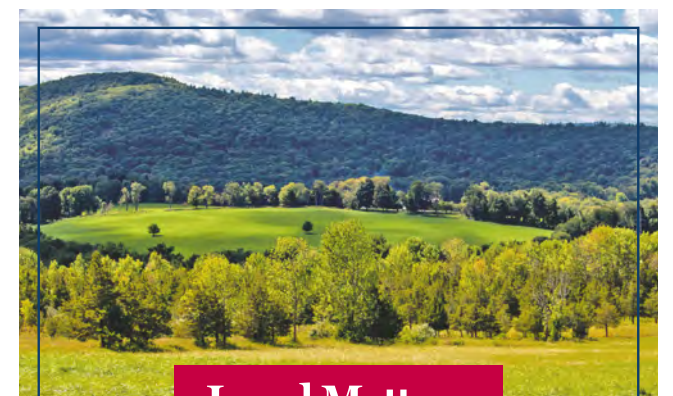


PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Brenda Butler, right, and Ilene Spiewak admired Karen Dolmanisth's pieces at Mad Rose Gallery for the opening reception of "Assembled" on Saturday, Jan. 18, at the gallery on Main Street in downtown Millerton.

sale. Mad Rose Gallery is open for visitors Thursday through Sunday

from noon to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 6 p.m.



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ART: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Art in process: Wassaic Project open studios

The Wassaic Project will host open studios on Saturday, Jan. 25, from 1 to 3 p.m. The participating artists are: LaTonia Allen, Jayden Ashley, Arden Carlon, Ricardo Galvan, Erin Goodine, Diana Guerra, Hyunjin Park and Kanthy Peng. For art lovers, it's an opportunity to view work in progress and ask questions of the creators and for the artists, it's a chance to make connections and possibly even gain new insights into their work.

Allen, a New York based multidisciplinary artist, is a 2025 recipient of the Wassaic Projects Family Residency. Of the open studios experience she said, "Welcoming people in can be a bit nerve wracking at times, but afterwards, I always find myself feeling better. Oftentimes, I have a different perspective to think about or another way to approach the subject matter to consider."

Working in various media, Allen's work investigates the definition of Black self-liberation. "Through portraiture and figuration, my work engages through the washes of oil paint and charcoal to explore emotions, employing symbolism related to the passage of time and trauma, personified through skin tone and Black hair," said Allen. "I don't know that the open studios help me view my work differently. I think as an artist, sometimes you have to be able to decipher through the multitude of opinions, good or bad, and maintain trust in yourself and your process."

South Korean born Park is also part of Wassaic's Artist in Residence program. Her work explores the intimate relationship between human and non-human entities, the intersections between animals, machines and technology. At the open studios, she plans to share sketches from an ongoing video project, highlighting how she merges animated drawings with video footage.

"I believe art is born through the dialogues and interactions between artists, artworks and viewers," said Park. Of the open studios, she shared, "This experience offers an opportunity not only to share my finished pieces but also to open up about the thought processes and materials behind my practice, hopefully fostering a deeper understanding of my work."

Of the Artist in Residence program, Park said, "It's been such a warm and heartfelt experience, and I think part of that comes from the fact that the directors and staff at the Wassaic Project are also artists themselves. This gives them a deep understanding of the community and an intuitive sense of what artists need during this winter residency."

The upcoming open studios promise a unique chance to witness creativity in motion, fostering meaningful connections between artists and those who get to experience their work.

The Wassaic Project is located at 37 Furnace Bank Road in Wassaic. For more info, visit: www.wassaicproject.org

Lazy, hazy days of..winter?

When syndicated columnists run out of ideas they do one of two things.

First they collect the last couple year's worth of columns and call it a book. These are published to great acclaim from other syndicated columnists and show up in due course in gigantic, ziggurat-shaped mounds at Costco for \$4.98 a pop.

We're working on that one.

The other standby is this right here: The "Things That Caught My Eye Recently" column.

Item: How's the fishing?

Lousy. As I peck this out on the Chromebook with the sticky "s" key, the latest wild guess from the weather people says we're going to get the first proper snow-storm of the winter starting tomorrow — Sunday, Jan. 19.

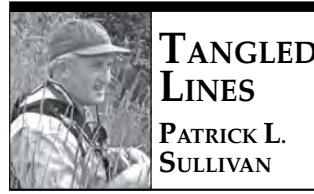
If that happens as predicted then the following advice will have to include the phrase "be prepared for snowdrifts."

If I was going to drop a line somewhere, I would go first to the West Branch of the Farmington, probably in the two miles or so downstream of the Goodwin dam.

The same water that keeps the river cool in the summer works in the opposite direction in the winter. You'll find more clear, ice and slush-free water here than anywhere else.

Downstream from where the Swift River enters at Riverton you will almost certainly encounter ice and slush. The latter will clear out on a sunny day but the shelf ice won't. Do not walk on the shelf ice. It isn't safe, period, and an unscheduled bath in January is absolutely no fun at all.

If that's not appealing, then I would try a little blue line. The warning about shelf ice applies here too. Because the brush is down, you can forget the little rod and deploy a nine-footer. You'll need the extra length to flip your flies into the clear channel of water between the ice floes without messing



TANGLED LINES
PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

with the shelf ice along the banks.

For the Farm, try junk flies first: squirmies, mops, eggs and so forth. If nobody salutes try big stonefly nymphs. If that's a bust, Woolly Bugger 'em.

And if that fails to click, go home already. It's freezing out.

On the little stream, big, high-floating dries like Stimulators, Parachute Adamses and Chubby Chernobyls are the way to go. Try adding a short, 12 inch, dropper with a kebari or soft-hackle wet fly.

Item: Should I be monitoring the winter clearance sales?

Yes you should. This is the time to pick up things like discontinued models of wading boots at considerable savings. There is nothing worse than having a set of boots fall apart and having to pay top dollar for replacements. Extra worseness for paying for overnight freight.

However, this is not necessarily the time to buy new flies unless you have carefully and methodically cleaned out and organized your fly

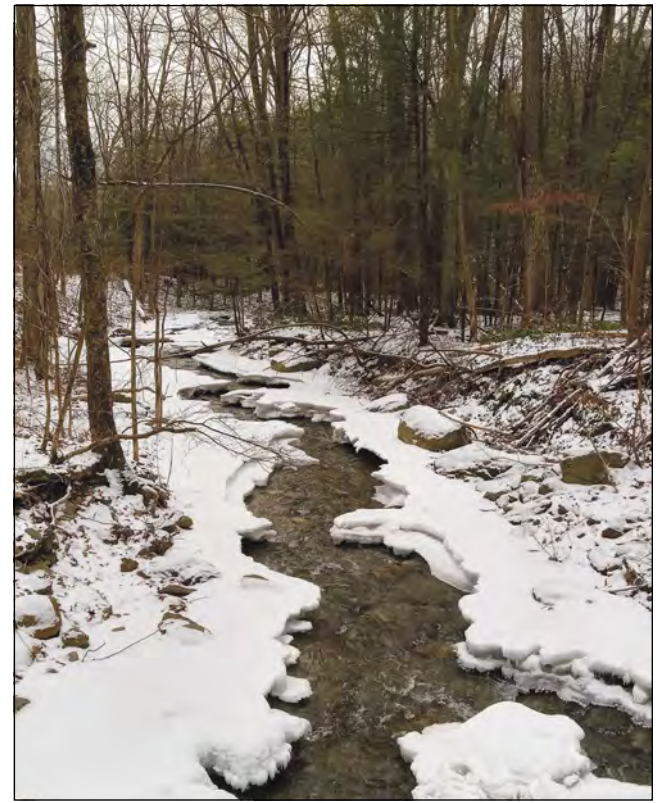


PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

This small stream is fishable, despite the wintry conditions. It probably won't be a pleasant or productive experience, but it can be done.

boxes so you know exactly what you need.

My fly boxes are, for the most part, still in the car. So I am resisting the lure of stocking up on size 6 Double-Gilled Wampus Busters.

Item: Is it dangerous to fish in cold weather?

Yes. It's also mostly unpleasant and unproductive. The pain and misery can be mitigated by dressing in wicking layers and getting out of the water when you can't feel your feet.

But catching a decent fish in the winter makes

for a good story, in which the size of the fish is in inverse proportion to the air temperature. In other words, the colder it is, the bigger your fish gets in the retelling.

Finally, I note that the great angling writer John Gierach died recently.

Spend a little time with one of his books and you'll realize that while any idiot can string a few jokes together with some basic fishing information — ahem — very few can do it in such a way to make the story about life, not fishing.

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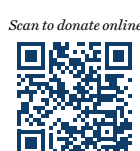
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