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 Vemilo **A6**



MILLBROOK
 Historic
 tours **A7**



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 Block Party;
 and more
B1-4



Eelco Kessels

PHOTO PROVIDED

Habitat for Humanity Dutchess hires new CEO

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

WAPPINGERS FALLS, N.Y. — Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County welcomed a new chief executive officer in April.

Eelco Kessels joined the nonprofit as CEO in April following an eight year tenure as the Executive Director of the Global Center on Cooperative Security, an organiza-

tion that combats violence worldwide through research, social programs, community outreach and philanthropy.

"I've been in the nonprofit world my whole professional career," Kessels said, starting in his home country, the Netherlands.

Kessels worked for the Global Center for 10 years in total, lead-

See **EELCO KESSELS, A8**

Empress EMS to purchase Northern Dutchess Paramedics

By **ALY MORRISSEY**
 alym@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Northern Dutchess Paramedics, the private emergency medical service provider contracted by North East, Amenia and Dover, is set to be acquired by Empress EMS, Town Supervisor Chris Kennan said at a special workshop meeting of the town board on Tuesday evening, Aug. 26.

Kennan shared what he called "breaking news" shortly after calling the meeting to order.

"We just learned that Northern Dutchess Paramedics has entered into a sales agreement with Empress, which serves most of Dutchess County," he announced at

While there is no confirmed timeframe for the transition of ownership, North East Supervisor Chris Kennan said NDP owner Ed Murray indicated it was "moving quickly."

the start of the meeting, which was originally scheduled to fine-tune zoning language for the town's commercial district.

Empress EMS is part of Patient-Care EMS Solutions, a provider of emergency medical services that operates throughout the country under several brands, including Sunstar Paramedics, Med Fleet Ambulance, FleetPlus and School of EMS. PatientCare is owned by A+M Capital Partners, a private equity firm based in Greenwich, Connecticut, which provides the

company with financial backing and corporate oversight.

Kennan said he received a call from NDP owner Ed Murray with the news on Friday.

In a phone call with The News on Wednesday morning, Aug. 27, NDP Chief Operating Officer Mark Browne confirmed that while the acquisition "is on-schedule to happen," the paperwork is not yet final.

While a potential shift in own-

See **EMPRESS EMS, A8**

Hiker's Notebook

Hitting the Alander Brooke Trail

By **GRACE DEMARCO**
 Special to the Millerton News

MILLERTON — On a warm Sunday, I ventured to escape the heat of a mid-August afternoon under the bright-green protective canopy of the Alander Brooke and CCC Trail. After the minor delay

of forgetting my boots at home, I laced up my well-loved Merrells and took to the trail for the perfect mind-clearing and balancing activity to bridge one week to another.

This 2.6 mile hike is accessible from Under Mountain Road in Millerton, just off of Route 22. I headed down the road, passing the trailhead marked by visible signs on the left, and followed the arrows up a bit toward a parking pulloff.

After parking and retracing my steps a short way down the road, I headed down the Alander Mountain trail. Immediately I was under the full coverage of the trees above, engulfed by the sights and sounds of nature.

Although there were no other hikers to be found on this late afternoon, the wide trail appeared to be heavily trafficked and well marked. The compact and colorful fallen leaves, scattered pinecones and acorns set the trail aside from its fern and vegetation linings.

Shortly after beginning, I approached a fork in the trail and, following the signs, went left toward the easier Alander Mountain trail.

See **HIKING, A8**



PHOTO BY GRACE DEMARCO

The wide, well-worn Alander Mountain Trail is a welcoming route for hikers of all skill levels.

Pine Plains native stages an original production celebrating local history

By **ALY MORRISSEY**
 alym@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Dyan Wapnick, president of the Little Nine Partners Historical Society, is reluctant to call herself a playwright, but after penning *Widow's Weeds* — a compelling and true story about a Revolutionary War widow — she's embracing the creative process and watching her words come to life on stage.

The play will be performed for

See **WIDOWS WEEDS, A8**



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

The cast of *Widow's Weeds*, an original play written by Dyan Wapnick and directed by Robert C. Lyons, rehearses at the Stissing Center. The show will open for one night only on Sept. 6.



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OPINION
 A big zoning redo; Columns **A5**



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PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

Housy girls start soccer preseason strong

Housatonic Valley Regional High School girls varsity soccer hosted Monument Mountain Regional High School, from Great Barrington, Mass., for a scrimmage Thursday, Aug. 28. Housatonic won 6-2. Freshman Lyla Diorio scored a game-high four goals for Housatonic. Madeline Mechare and Louise Faveau each scored once for HVRHS.



Wake Robin hearing again focuses on noise pollution

By ALEC LINDEN
alecl@lakevillejournal.com

LAKEVILLE, Conn. — Noise pollution continues to be a crux of the public hearing to expand the Wake Robin Inn. On Aug. 26, the fifth hearing session of the month and second-to-last in the statutorily defined window, the question arose: is any additional sound permissible at all?

Bennett Brooks, founding sound engineer of Brooks Acoustics Corporation and an expert hired by Wells Hill Road residents William and Angela Cruger in opposition to the project, said no: "I think all the experts agree that the project will be audible and that's the criterion."

Attorney Josh Mackey, who has represented the applicant Aradev LLC since its first appearance before the Planning and Zoning Commission last fall, countered Brooks: "The idea that nuisance within the regulations means anything that is audible to neighbors is simply ludicrous."

He referenced air conditioning units, dogs barking and children playing as inevi-

table sounds in a residential neighborhood. Herb Singleton, a sound engineer with Cross-Spectrum Acoustics and the Commission's third-party expert reviewer, agreed with Mackey, explaining that defining nuisance as any sound emission that can be heard by neighbors "gets dangerous very, very quickly" due to those complicating factors. He suggested that nuisance "implies a level of annoyance based on audibility," rather than audibility itself.

It was the third hearing in a row in which sound took center stage in the discussion, with the focal point being what constitutes "nuisance," as it appears in the town's zoning regulation 803.2 for special permit approval: "The use shall not create a nuisance to neighboring properties, whether by noise, air, or water pollution; offensive odors, dust, smoke, vibrations, lighting, or other effects."

A sound study commissioned by Aradev for its application and Singleton's third-party review both stated that the noise produced by the redeveloped hotel would

be below a nuisance level at the property boundaries. At the Aug. 12 hearing, though, neighbors countered that any additional noise intrusion onto their own properties would be against the regulations, as they are intended to "protect abutters and neighbors" from intrusion beyond what they are used to, as Bill Cruger put it. Brooks argued in his Aug. 26 testimony that "in terms of size and scope, this project is almost identical to the former application," which Aradev withdrew in December due to a likely denial.

Brooks was one of three experts brought into the Zoom room on Tuesday evening to provide testimony against the proposed hotel development. The Crugers, who were intervenors in the 2024 round of hearings for the first iteration of the Inn redevelopment proposal, decided not to formally intervene again during this cycle. Instead, P&Z Chair Michael Klemens stated that the Commission decided to allow the Crugers' experts to "engage in a dialogue" during the process,

but without formal party status in the proceedings.

The other two presenters, wetland scientist George Logan of Rema Ecological Services and Brian Miller of Miller Planning Group, echoed Brooks in their testimonies that Aradev's current application has not satisfactorily reduced the scale and intensity of the first proposal. Representatives of Aradev have continued to argue that the current plan, which reduces the total occupancy from 158 to 130 and downscales its build footprint, among other alterations, adequately address scale and intensity concerns raised by the Commission and the public.

Of Tuesday's three-hour meeting, only 20 minutes were left for public comment, leading to a much-abbreviated session for residential input. Klemens announced that the next hearing round, scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 4, at 6:30 p.m., will prioritize the public's chance to speak.

Thursday is the last scheduled date for the public hearing, which state law deems must close on Sept. 9.

Sharon Hospital earns national recognition for stroke care

SHARON, Conn. — Northwell Health's Sharon Hospital earned the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association Get With The Guidelines® Stroke Gold Plus and Honor Roll and Rural Stroke Gold awards for 2025.

The hospital's award-winning stroke program brings together a multidisciplinary team of emergency medicine, radiology, neurology, nursing, pharmacy and rehabilitation specialists who work collaboratively to provide comprehensive, personalized care. Staff continually undergo training and education to stay current on best practices and to deliver the most effective treatments available.

Sharon Hospital is also certified as a Primary Stroke Center by The Joint Commission. The hospital also recently earned an "A" grade for hospital quality and patient safety from The Leapfrog Group, as well as a Patient Safety Excellence Award from Healthgrades — placing it among the top 10% of hospitals nationwide for patient safety.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Members of the Sharon Hospital stroke team, from left, Clairisse Hafey, DO; Abbie Alhashimi, Emergency Department Technician; Desiree Caranci, Emergency Department Secretary; Isaac Barnett, RN; Benjamin Vinciguerra, RN; Melissa Braislin, Director of Rehab, Cardiology Services and Stroke Program; Ashley Corkins, RN.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

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

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PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Up, up and away

The 34th annual Hudson Valley Hot Air Balloon Festival captivated air-heads from Friday, Aug. 29 to Sunday, Aug. 31 in Lagrangeville, New York. Mass "ascensions" gave visitors a chance to see dozens of balloons take flight all at once, and hot air balloon rides were available all weekend long.

Amenia Planning Board approves amended site plan for Silo Ridge condos

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Following months of consideration, the Planning Board at its regular meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 27, approved changes to the Silo Ridge site plan that will substitute ten condominium units for the originally planned 13 townhouse units.

The vote was unanimous from the Planning Board members who were present. Absent from the meeting were chairman Robert Boyles, Jr. and member Lyzette Bullock. Member Jamie Vitiello was present, but he abstained from the vote due to his work with Silo Ridge management.

Terming the site plan

change a "minor modification," Silo Consultant Patrick O'Leary said there is no visual impact to the change. The townhouse lots will be combined into a single lot upon which the condos will stand.

"We've worked through the workforce housing issues, leaving the matter to Planning Board Attorney Paul Van Cett, O'Leary said.

Van Cott explained that the workforce housing law was revised in 2023, and that the application to change the site plan needed to comply with the new law.

The Town Board and Silo Ridge have reached an agreement on the applicability of the law in regard to a required fee schedule, Van Cott said,

referring to the law's provision for payment of a fee to the town in lieu of providing workforce housing for a development the size of Silo Ridge.

The Planning Board has the responsibility for establishing the fee schedule, Van Cott said, adding that the Planning Board must also acknowledge that the fee schedule needs to be provided.

"The Planning Board is not in the middle of this; it is a Town Board matter," Van Cott said. "Submission of a revised fee schedule will settle the matter."

Discussion continued about the Siland Recreational Facility being developed within an area adjacent to Route 22 in the southeastern acreage adjacent to the Silo Ridge development.

Town Engineer John Andrews indicated that the proposed changes to the plans are minor with no proposed changes in use. In effect, Andrews said, the developer is taking elements that were outdoors and moving them indoors, in a phased plan.

"This is still a recreational facility," Andrews said, adding that if there is no substantial change in use, the planning board can approve the change in plans without a public hearing, although that is a decision for the Planning Board.

A new environmental impact review must be provided, Andrews noted.

The Planning Board agreed to direct Siland to prepare a detailed response to the discussion.

Silo Ridge continued review of its Master Plan of Development as part of a series of workshops at Planning Board meetings. A public tour of the Silo Ridge property was held on Monday, Aug. 18, attended by most Planning Board members and a few members of the public.

O'Leary's detailed Master Plan review, or which the tour was a key element, is intended to inform the Planning Board about future plans for development within the Silo Ridge community.

Continuing work to create a visual impact analysis in connection with plans to develop the Keane Stud acreage, visible from DeLaVergne Hill, was reviewed by George Janes, the board's visual consultant who is coordinating with the developer on behalf of the board.

Recent meetings have sought procedural clarification in the preparation of a "reasonable worst case scenario with variations" and the creation of a model representation, Janes reported. The developer is also seeking to identify local comparable properties, with plans to take photographs in November to show late fall views of the Keane Stud acreage.

Once the model is created, the Planning Board will be able to review it, Janes said.

Millerton Board appoints new police candidate, schedules public hearing on Altice franchise

By ALY MORRISSEY
alym@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The Village of Millerton Board of Trustees met Tuesday, Aug. 26, to introduce a new police candidate and handle routine village business.

Joseph Skabowski of Hudson, New York, was presented by Police Chief Joe Olenik and approved unanimously by the board. He was sworn in and submitted his paperwork to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services in Albany. The department will provide financial support for his field training at the Academy.

This appointment comes

two months after Hannah Dworkin of Fishkill was sworn in. Chief Olenik told the News that Dworkin left the Academy for personal reasons and is taking time to determine her next steps. He expressed hope that she will return to both the Academy and the Millerton Police Department in the future.

The board also scheduled a public hearing on the upcoming Optimum/Altice franchise agreement renewal for Tuesday, Sept. 9, at 6:05 p.m. at Village Hall. The meeting follows recent discussions held by the Town to review cable services offered by Altice. The village clarified that the agreement is for cable, not for WiFi. The Sept. 9 meeting

will also include a presentation by Erin Moore of Tighe & Bond, an engineer who will discuss the village wastewater system.

In other developments, the village's two new police patrol vehicles are expected to be delivered this week. Under an agreement with the Town, the vehicles will be stationed in the new town garage.

Additionally, the Village Board approved a lease agreement with Dutchess County for emergency services on the water tower. Resolution #2025-41, dated Aug. 26, authorizes the county to pay monthly rent for the space and includes provisions for relocating electronic equipment and meeting insurance requirements.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Supplying for school

North East Community Center staff and volunteers gave out school supplies including headphones, notebooks and even shoes totalling \$3,500 to 102 students from across northeast Dutchess County.

DUTCHESS COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Harlem Valley activity report Aug. 17 to Aug. 27

Aug. 18 — Deputies arrested Mario Ramirez-Hernandez for driving while intoxicated subsequent to a vehicle and traffic stop emanating from an erratic vehicle complaint on McGhee Hill Road in North East. Ramirez-Hernandez to appear in the Town of North East Court at a later date.

Aug. 20 — Deputies report the arrest of Jeremy Carson, age 50, on an arrest warrant issued for his arrest by the City of Kingston, New York, court for three counts of aggravated family offense and criminal contempt. Carson located in the Town of North East at the time of arrest. Carson turned over to the City of Kingston Police Department.

Aug. 23 — Deputies report the arrest of David Sprouls, age 55, for driving while intoxicated in the Village of Millerton. Arrest made as part of a DWI checkpoint conducted in that jurisdiction. Sprouls to appear in the Town of North East Court at a later date.

Aug. 24 — Deputies report the arrest of Jhon F. Torres Marin, age 43, for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree subsequent to a traffic stop in the area of 562 Route 22 in the Village of Pawling. Subject

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

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

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Music Mountain Summer Festival

OUR TOWNS

Millbrook Community Day promises local fun on Sept. 20

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Planning for the annual Community Day festivities on Saturday, Sept. 20, is well underway, promising hours of fun and

community neighborliness from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Featured activities will include pumpkin painting, the always-popular bounce house, the Bubble Bus, live music, sidewalk sales, food trucks, distillery tastings, a

scarecrow contest, and a fall dessert baking contest.

The Farmers and Makers Market will feature local talent, goods and creativity.

Community Day is presented by The Millbrook Business Association in collaboration with several local organizations including the Village of Millbrook, the Town of Washington, Millbrook Arts, Community Partnership, Educational Foundation, Farmers and Makers Market, Fire Department, Historical Society, Millbrook Library and Rotary.

To learn more about sponsorship, partnering or volunteering, go to: www.millbrooknewyork.com/community-day-2025.

Explore historic farms on DLC's 'Country Ramble' hike Sept. 14

By ALY MORRISSEY
alym@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The Dutchess Land Conservancy will host a late-summer guided hike on Sunday, Sept. 14, showcasing two historic private farms in the town of North East, both protected by conservation easements. The walk will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. and will be followed by a light lunch.

Participants will explore the Dakin Coleman Farm and the Wheeler Bassett Farm during the "Country Ramble," gaining a firsthand look at how organizations like the DLC help preserve land in its natural state.

"This is a brand-new event," said Doug Ohlandt, communications manager for the Dutchess Land Conservancy, who noted that the idea came from the landowners themselves. "People can expect beautiful vistas and to learn about the ecology of these historic properties and the conservation work being done by the DLC."

The hike is free, but registration is required due to limited space. Ohlandt advises attendees to wear suitable footwear for steep or uneven terrain and to bring sunscreen and insect repellent. Dogs on leashes are allowed to join in on the fun. Interested hikers can register at dutchessland.org.

Millerton's Townscape sets 50/50 raffle drawing for Sept. 13

By ALY MORRISSEY
alym@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Millerton's Townscape team will hold its Summer 50/50 Raffle Drawing on Saturday, Sept. 13, at 2 p.m. in Veteran's Park by the Townscape tent. The raffle pot currently exceeds \$5,000, with the lucky winner taking home half. Attendees can enjoy lemonade and cookies. The winner does not need to be present.

For more than 25 years, Townscape has worked to beautify Millerton with street trees,

flower plantings, holiday lights, benches, historic building registrations and design services. Visitors to this summer's Millerton Farmers Market have likely met the Townscape team, an outgoing and lively group planted at the corner of Main Street and Dutchess Avenue each Saturday.

The drawing will coincide with an "Impromptu Art in the Park" event, featuring local artists showcasing and selling their work. Attendees are encouraged to bring friends and pets for an afternoon of art, community and fun.

NorthEast-Millerton Library to offer AARP safe-driving course offered Sept. 6

MILLERTON — The NorthEast-Millerton Library is offering an AARP Smart Driver course that could provide car insurance discounts upon completion.

The six-hour DMV

course starts at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 6, at the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex on Century Boulevard.

AARP members get a discounted price of \$25 for the

course. Fees for non-members are \$30. Payment should be made by check payable to AARP.

A half-hour lunch break and two ten minute breaks throughout the day will provide a reprieve from the driving lesson. Participants are required to bring their own lunch.

The driving course is expected to finish around 4 p.m.

Upcoming film series spotlights journalism

MILLERTON — The Moviehouse, in partnership with The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News, presents a film series celebrating Freedom of the Press beginning Sept. 6.

The series will begin with a screening of the film "Goodnight and Good Luck."

There will be a Q and A led by veteran ABC News reporter Brian Ross in conversation with John Coston, Editor-at-Large of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News.

The movie and discussion starts at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6 at The Moviehouse in Millerton.

Go to themoviehouse.net for tickets.



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

A view through the brush

Realtor® at Large

The Salisbury Housing Trust is currently building two affordable homes at 26 and 28 Undermountain Road here in Salisbury. The foundations are complete and the first house has been set by Signature Building Systems. Very impressive to see how the four boxes that have been built in Moosic, PA are gently lifted in the air and set on the foundation. For more information on how the houses are constructed, please visit www.signaturebuildingsystems.com/. The second house was set on Thursday, Aug. 28th. A special shout out to George Hill who supervises and coordinates the building of these affordable homes! Also to Brandon Flint of Lime Rock Race Track who allowed the semi trucks with the houses loaded to track at the Park! All very exciting! For more information on the Salisbury Housing Trust, please see: www.salisburycthousing.org/.



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OBITUARIES

Andrea Flip Williams

SALISBURY — Andrea Flip Williams, 83, passed away peacefully on Monday, Aug. 25, 2025, at her home.

Mrs. Williams was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on Dec. 28, 1941, daughter of the late Floyd Arthur and Berniece Inez (Blasingame) Williams.

She was married to Joe Williams for over 50 years.

She is survived by three sons; Josh Williams of Treasure Beach, Jamaica, Charlie Williams of North Liberty, Iowa, and Ben Williams of

New York City; and a nephew, Sean Deome of Austin, Texas.

A full happy life, a great love, good family, wonderful friends, and endless adventures.

Time for her to rest.

Services will be private. Ryan Funeral Home at 255 Main St., Lakeville, Connecticut, is in

care of arrangements.

Memorial contributions can be made by simply being nice to each other.

To offer an online condolence, please visit ryanfhct.com



Send obituaries to obituaries@lakevillejournal.com

YOUR NEWS

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Worship Services Week of September 7, 2025

<p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>	<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>
<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</p>	<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge In-Person and on YouTube www.stjohnssalisbury.org</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7252</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons Sunday, September 14 at 10:30 a.m. WHAT VALUES GROUND YOU IN THIS TIME OF TURMOIL? For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>Congregation Beth David A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly - Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 info@congbethdavid.org</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Cornwall Village Meeting House Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 www.uccincornwall.org Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>	<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall in person and on zoom Warm fellowship following service All Are Welcome! www.allsaintscornwall.org Rev. Mary Gates!</p>
<p>Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194</p>	<p>St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p>Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 8:00AM - Worship Service 2nd & 4th Sunday "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-824-5534 canaanctumc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!</p>
<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>	<p>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us</p>
<p>Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M. 518-789-3138</p>	

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THE MILLERTON NEWS

EDITORIAL PAGE A5 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

EDITORIAL

The big zoning redo

Boston had its Big Dig, the massive civil engineering project that rerouted an elevated highway and built a new tunnel — a project that took 15 years to complete, not including planning. The Town of North East has its Big Zoning Redo, a multi-year project that is nearing the end of an initial phase to update the zoning code to match the vision of the Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2019.

The current zoning code is half a century old, and like all such codes it governs how residents and businesses can use their homes and buildings, and their land. The world has changed since the Seventies — and so will the zoning regulations of the Town of North East if amendments proposed by a working committee of volunteers are accepted by the town board in the near future.

Supervisor Chris Kennan put it succinctly at a special meeting of the board last week, remarking that the adoption of the amendments to zoning could stand as the most significant of all accomplishments of the current board.

The Zoning Review Committee is made up of six volunteers: Edie Greenwood, chair, and Dale Culver, Julie Schroeder, Ed Downey, Bill Kish and Dave Sherman. The work of the group was assisted not only by the board itself but by guidance from professional consultants including Nan Stolzenberg and Will Agresta, two community planners well known in their field. Town Attorney Warren Replansky also pored over the committee's recommendations, sharing insights as well his extensive experience with other towns that have navigated zoning waters past and present.

Kennan applauded the committee, and thanked them for their service. He wanted the record to show that this group, which was formed four-plus years ago, has met "in something like 100 meetings with the same six members all the way through. That's pretty amazing," he said.

The importance of the review this group has undertaken cannot be underestimated. At the outset, a complete overhaul of the code was considered too ambitious, so the committee was advised to keep its focus largely on the Commercial District, which runs along Route 44 to the Connecticut border. Residential and land conservation districts have been included to a varying degrees, but are to be considered later.

The Town Board has met several times this year specifically to discuss and debate the committee's proposed amendments. At the most recent meeting on Aug. 26, Town Attorney Replansky began to walk through the proposed changes from A to Z, engaging the board with questions and comment as he turned page after page of PDF printouts. It took nearly two hours and he didn't even finish. That's how much is involved. The board plans to continue to hear the town attorney's observations at its next board meeting on Sept. 11.

What eventually will follow is a public hearing for the community to comment and ask questions. No date has yet been set for such a hearing, but it is likely around the corner. It's prudent to pay attention to the proposed amendments because the resulting code will shape how our community will grow in the years ahead. They will have something to say about housing, commercial activity, parking and many other life activities that shape what a community, including what it looks like. In the minutiae of these amendments there is a vision for the community's future as envisioned by the Comprehensive Plan — created with the input of many residents, business and community leaders, and elected and appointed officials.



Closing Millerton bottling; Lime Rock art war; fireman tossed from pumper; saving farmland

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

August 29, 1934
 'Borden Official Blames Control Board For Closing Of Millerton Bottling Operation; Sheffield Co-operates, Plants Stay Open'; Laying the blame in the lap of the State Milk Control Board, Francis R. Elliott, assistant to the president of Borden's Farm Products Company, Inc., said in a telephone conversation with *The News* Saturday that the bottling operation at the local Borden plant was being discontinued Sept. 4 because of "regulations which were not being enforced by the Milk Board."

Despite offers of the Chamber of Commerce and village officials of certain inducements along the line of reduced water rates, and possible tax reductions, the Borden Company has steadfastly refused to co-operate in the matter, and in the high-handed manner that it has thus far pursued, plans to go through with its threat to cease bottling here Tuesday, throwing twenty-one men out of work.

Senator Frederic H. Bontecou and a group of Dover Plains dairymen went to Albany last week, prior to the announcement of the Sheffield Company that the Dover Plains and Coleman's Station

FROM THE ARCHIVES *The Millerton News*

plants would remain open, where they conferred with Kenneth F. Fee of the Milk Control Board.

'Local Grange To Stage Play Today At Fair'; The Millerton Grange will stage its play, "Sauce for the Gosling," at 3 o'clock standard time this afternoon in the Little Country Theatre contest at the Dutchess County Fair. The cast of the production, which was given a pre-showing here at a recent meeting of the organization, includes Clarence Card, James Diegnan, Mrs. Ralph Brusie, Mrs. Seth Merwin, Mrs. Catherine McGhee and James Piper. The presentation is under the direction of Mrs. M. Irene P. Duxbury of the service and hospitality committee.

The Pine Plains Grange presented "How The Story Grew" yesterday afternoon. y.

'One Hundred Thousand Dollar Slander Action Is Revealed In Art War'; A \$100,000 libel suit which Winslow Wilson, Texas, portrait painter, has disclosed he is filing today in New York through his attorney, Edward Apstein, against G. Glenn Newell, Dover Plains artist and unsuccessful opponent

of Senator Frederic H. Bontecou in the special election held in the 28th senatorial district July 5, will fan the flames to new heights, it is anticipated, in the Lime Rock art war which has been waxing hot for the past few weeks. Mr. Wilson seeks redress in the action, it is understood, for remarks alleged to have been made by Mr. Newell in the presence of the former's prospective clients which Mr. Wilson charges would make it impossible for him to gain a livelihood from his work in Lime Rock.

'Fireman Hurt When Thrown From Pumper'; WASSAIC, August 29 - Walter Dahoney was injured Thursday while participating in the firemen's pumper contest at the South Amenia Fair when in getting off the Wassaic pumper he was thrown to the ground, sustaining a broken bone in his foot and cuts and bruises on his arms and body. X-rays were taken at the Sharon Hospital and a cast put on his ankle.

August 31, 2000
 'NE Planners Eye Open Space Again With DLC'; MILLERTON — Preservation of farms and open space will be the main topic at the North East planning board's workshop meeting Tuesday evening Sept. 5.

The Dutchess Land Conservancy (DLC) will present the final draft of its "Agri-

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Letters to the editor deadline is 10 a.m. Monday for that week's publication. No more than 500 words. Send to editor@millertonnews.com. Include town and phone number for confirmation.

cultural Preservation Study" at 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall. The text of the document is largely unchanged from the draft presented last March at a meeting at the North East Community Center, but the final draft includes enhanced graphics and additional photographs, said DLC Executive Director Rebecca Thornton.

The study, funded by a grant from the Hudson Valley Greenway Communities Council, is designed to "assist the town of North East with developing strategies for preserving farmland and active farming in the town," according to the March 7 draft version. Input from town residents, particularly farmers, was sought and incorporated into the study.

According to the DC report, the conventional "land gobbling" housing development plan, aimed at profits, is "destructive to scenic character, and maximizes the loss of farmland, open space, and other natural resources."

'Girl Scouts Will Present Downey With Award'; Girl Scouts of Dutchess County will present the first Seat of Honor Awards Thursday, Sept. 28, to Shirley A. Adams, executive director of Poughkeepsie's Catharine Street Community Center; Margaretta Downey, a resident of Millerton and executive editor of the Poughkeepsie Journal; and Clara Lou Gould, mayor of the city of Beacon.

Reader asks: Is my appliance energy-efficient?

Dear EarthTalk: Now that the Trump administration has scrapped the EnergySTAR program, how can consumers make sure they are getting energy-efficient appliances? — Brian Longworthy, Puyallup, WA

EARTHTALK Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss

However, earlier this year, the Trump administration initiated plans to cut the EnergySTAR program, despite protests from economists, environmentalists and consumer advocates. With the EnergySTAR label disappearing, consumers should know how to still make energy-efficient decisions in their homes.

Another label that appears on appliances is the yellow Energy Guide, managed by the Federal Trade Commission. It lists the estimated annual energy cost (\$) and electricity use (kilowatt/hour), and shows a scale comparing the product to similar models. While useful for reference, it's important to remember that these are based on national averages, and your costs may increase if you use

the appliance more or live in an area with higher average living costs.

The Consortium of Energy Efficiency places energy-efficient appliances on a Tier List from 1 through 4, with Tier 1 being equivalent to the minimum EnergySTAR standards, and Tiers 2, 3, and 4 showcasing increasing exceptional performance. While they don't provide stickers on products, CEE has an online directory, where you can check the tier rating once you find an appliance you like and are thinking of buying.

Finally, the U.S. Department of Energy and organizations like SoCalGas have guides on saving energy and electrical costs in your home. These include tips for buying new appliances, such as looking for blue-flame gas stoves or testing the seal on fridge doors. There's advice for improving the energy usage of your current appliances, like

adjusting your thermostat when away from home. Even regular cleaning of appliances can ensure they are working as efficiently and safely as possible. A 2022 study by researchers at San Jose State University found that the most impactful way for consumers to cut energy usage and costs isn't by changing out older appliances for more energy efficient new ones but by changing their own behavior in terms of energy consumption choices based on household profile, no matter what equipment they have.

Although it's discouraging to see the EnergySTAR program potentially cut, it's valuable for households to make an effort to improve their energy usage or buy energy-efficient appliances, in whatever steps possible for them.

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

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OUR TOWNS

Millerton native Vemilo reflects on a unique life of authenticity

By ALY MORRISSEY
alym@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Vemilo walks into Irving Farm wearing a chic blazer over his shoulders, a red fedora, and his own signature scent called Vetreus, a woodsy blend that carries the air of high-end fashion.

A regular at the coffee shop, the baristas already know his order — lavender vanilla chai in his own mug. The order suits him. Everything about Vemilo is curated, intentional and unapologetically him.

“Being a young, Black, gay man in a small, white town, people often mistake me for being from the city, but I was born and raised here,” he said proudly. On Main Street, there’s no mistaking him. Vemilo’s runway-ready style makes him look as though he’s stepped straight out of Vogue or Rolling Stone.

Often clad in a long wig and high heels, Vemilo continually fields questions about gender. “I don’t identify as a trans woman, and I don’t want to be a woman, but I have this feminine energy that I’ve always wanted to nurture,” he said.

Vemilo’s grandmother Mary, who passed away one year ago, provided a safe space in which he could grow up, explore his identity and lead with what felt right — not what societal norms told him was appropriate. He credits his grandmother with helping him develop what would become a lifelong interest in fashion, music and performance art.

“She always made me put



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Millerton native Vemilo dresses in unapologetically bold fashions, including a flowing, curly wig that he never leaves the house without.

my pain into something creative,” he said, showing a ring bearing the letter “M,” joking that because she was allergic to jewelry he wears enough for the both of them.

This safe space allowed Vemilo to wrestle with questions about who he was and who he wanted to become. He reflected, “I always think about my younger self and how proud he would be.”

Vemilo traces his confidence back to childhood, when his grandmother filled his world with coloring books and Barbies, an early invitation to let creativity lead.

“I used to put on full performances in her living room, pretending I was on tour,” he laughs. “In my mind, I was in Argentina or Australia, doing an hour-and-forty-minute set with outfit changes, like I was in front of 100,000 people.”

The fake it ‘til you make it mentality paid off. Today, Vemilo has performed for audiences of all sizes, from intimate private parties to established venues, energizing crowds and getting people on their feet.

For him, success isn’t mea-

sured by numbers but by connection. If he’s made people feel something, he’s done his job. At the end of each show, he wants everyone to walk away loving themselves a little more.

“I’m grateful I knew who I was at such a young age,” he said. “Now I want to pay it forward and help others find the confidence to be themselves.”

At times, Vemilo said he feels something that resembles survivor’s guilt. “I am able to walk down these Millerton streets in any heel height, wearing any garment, and feel loved, respected and taken care of in a way that not everyone is fortunate enough to have,” he said in between sips of chai.

He said his heart breaks for the countless people who lose their lives or get bullied for being different, and he counts his blessings that he has never encountered a hate crime or been judged by what he describes as a “very welcoming and supportive community.”

When it comes to personality, Vemilo never had a lightbulb moment. Backed by

recent conversations with his preschool classmates, Vemilo said he always marched to the beat of his own drummer, though it never occurred to him as a child that he was different.

“I am myself. I just don’t know how not to be,” Vemilo said, adding, “I really feel for people who have to put on a mask.”

Now in his seventh year at The Watershed Center, a Millerton-based retreat and resource hub, Vemilo has found a role he loves that blends community engagement with creative practice. Most recently, he designed a musical experience for participants undergoing a self-healing journey. He admits that parts of the performance feel almost like teaching, a skill he has developed with age.

This year also marks a decade of his craft. If playing an original song over his high school loudspeaker for a boy he liked doesn’t count, Vemilo’s first true public performance was at a North East Community Center event ten years ago. Laughing at the high school memory, he said, “I had a lot of nerve back then! I still do now, but it’s more precise and more organized.” Vemilo takes pride in the many seasons of growth, both in life and in artistry, that have brought him to this moment.

Vemilo will be performing at the third annual Farm Block Party, presented by Rock Steady Farm and Catalyst Collaborative Farm in partnership with The Watershed Center, WILDSEED Community Farm & Healing Village, and Seasoned Delicious Foods on Saturday, Sept. 6.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Labor day demonstration

Residents from Amenia and area towns gathered at Fountain Square to participate in the national day of protest on Monday, Sept. 1. More than 40 exuberant pro-democracy protestors cheered, chanted and waved at passing motorists who responded with a cacophony of horn toots and returned comments, mostly positive. The national theme for Labor Day was “Workers over Billionaires.”

Friends of Irondale Schoolhouse announce scholarship winners

By ALY MORRISSEY
alym@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Friends of the Irondale Schoolhouse have awarded two \$2,000 scholarships to graduates of the Webutuck High School Class of 2025.

Olivia Lopane Wickwire will use her scholarship to pursue Biochemistry at Marist University in Poughkeepsie, New York, while Alexis Winters will further

her studies in Education in the Arts at Dutchess Community College, also in Poughkeepsie.

The scholarships are made possible through the generosity of the Irondale Schoolhouse Scholarship Program and its donors, including John and Cindy Heck, Rob and Tammy Cooper, More and Moore Printing, NBT Bank, Willa’s Restaurant, Gilded Moon Framing, Dutchess Trading, Designer Finds and Alex Kramer of Motorworks.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice
Formation of LLC TrueClean Solutions, LLC. Filed with NY Dept. of State on 5/28/25. Office: Dutchess Co. NY Sec. of State designated agent for service of process. Mail to: 3 Neptune Rd, Ste Q19, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. Purpose: Any lawful activity.
08-07-25
08-14-25
08-21-25
08-28-25
09-04-25
09-11-25

Legal Notice
McIntyre Law PLLC, a domestic PLLC, filed with the SSNY on 7/18/2025. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to PO Box 554 Amenia, NY 12501. Purpose: Law. Section 1203 of the Limited liability Company Law.
08-07-25
08-14-25
08-21-25
08-28-25
09-04-25
09-11-25

Legal Notice
Notice of Formation of Tailored Tails Grooming LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 7/25/25. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Kim Czelowalnik, 15 Millstream Court, Pawling NY 12564. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.
08-07-25
08-14-25

08-21-25
08-28-25
09-04-25
09-11-25

Legal Notice
Notice of Formation of Compa De Danza Folk Regional Mexicana, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 7/24/25. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Karina G Powers, 26 Wing Rd. Millbrook NY 12645. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.
08-07-25
08-14-25
08-21-25
08-28-25
09-04-25
09-11-25

Legal Notice
Notice of Formation of Chocolate and Pines LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 07/26/2025. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Natalia Hurley, 108 Old Post Rd N, Apt 2, Red Hook, NY 12571. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.
08-28-25
09-04-25
09-11-25
09-18-25
09-25-25
10-02-25

Legal Notice
The Union Cemetery Association will hold its

annual meeting on Sept. 13, 2025, at St. Thomas Church, 40 Leedsville Rd., Amenia, NY from Noon to 1:30 PM. If attending, please bring a couple of dollars to give to the Church’s Food Pantry. If you have family in the Cemetery, we are always looking for new Board members. Also if you wish to donate to help support the Cemetery, you can send a check made out to Union Cemetery Association and mail it to Union Cemetery Association, Gail Seymour, 16 Townsend Blvd., Poughkeepsie, New York 12603. Call Gail with any questions at 845-454-6641.
08-28-25
09-04-25
09-11-25

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF AMENIA ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AREA VARIANCE RELATED TO PROPERTY LOCATED AT 128 OLD ROUTE 22, WASSAIC, NEW YORK
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Section 121-59(G) of the Town of Amenia Zoning Code, a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) of the Town of Amenia, New York, on September 15th, 2025 at 6:00 PM.
Applicant Mark Morrison (the “Applicant”) seeks an area variance from the Zoning Law with regard to property located at 128 Old Route 22, Tax Parcel #132000-7165-01-211585-0000 (the

“Property”). The Property is located in the Rural Residential (“RR”) Zoning District. The Applicant proposes to construct an addition to a structure located approximately 52 feet from the road, where a 60-foot minimum setback is required pursuant to the Dimensional Table in Section 121-11B of the Zoning Law. Applicant therefore seeks an area variance of approximately 8 feet and such other variance relief as the ZBA deems necessary and appropriate.
A copy of the application is on file in the Planning/Zoning Office, 2nd Floor for public viewing and inspection, Monday-Thursday, 9-3 P.M by appointment. Please call 845-373-8860 X122 or email jwestfall@ameniany.gov for comments or questions.
John T. Metcalfe
Chairman
Zoning Board of Appeals
Town Of Amenia
09-04-25

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NORTH EAST
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Board of the Town of North East will conduct a public hearing on September 11, 2025 at 7:30pm at the Town of North East Town Hall in Millerton, New York on the adoption of proposed Local Law No. 1 of the Year 2025, which is entitled: “Override the Tax Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2026 Pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c”.
If this Local Law is enacted, the Town Board

of the Town of North East, County of Dutchess, will be authorized to adopt a budget for fiscal year 2026 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the limit specified in General Municipal Law §3-c.

Any person desiring to be heard on said Local Law will be provided with an opportunity to do so at said public hearing.

By Order of the Town Board dated August 14, 2025.

ELIZABETH STRAUSS
Town Clerk for the
Town of North East
09-04-25

TOWN OF PINE PLAINS DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held by the Town of Pine Plains Planning Board on the 10th day of September 2025 at 7:35pm at the Town Hall, 3284 Route 199, Pine Plains, New York, for the purpose of hearing all persons for or against an application submitted by The Upstate Pines for a site plan and special use permit for a New York State licensed cannabis dispensary located at 7723 South Main Street, Town of Pine Plains, Dutchess County, Tax Map ID #134200-6871-06-398968-0000.

Any resident of the Town of Pine Plains shall be entitled to be heard regarding said application. The application is available for review during regular business hours at the Pine Plains Town Hall.

By order of:
Town of Pine Plains
Planning Board
09-04-25

TOWN OF PINE PLAINS DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held by the Town of Pine Plains Planning Board on the 10th day of September 2025 at 7:50PM at the Town Hall, 3284 Route 199, Pine Plains, New York, for the purpose of hearing all persons for or against an application submitted by Keith Bancroft for a special use permit for a proposed accessory dwelling unit located at 441 Carpenter Hill Road, Town of Pine Plains, Dutchess County, Tax Map ID #134200-6870-00-890925-0000.

Any resident of the Town of Pine Plains shall be entitled to be heard regarding said application. The application is available for review during regular business hours at the Pine Plains Town Hall.

By order of:
Town of Pine Plains
Planning Board
09-04-25

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.

North East continues review of proposed zoning changes

By JOHN COSTON
johnc@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The lengthy process of reviewing and updating zoning regulations in the Town of North East continued on Tuesday, Aug. 26, as the Board of Supervisors pored over proposed changes in definitions and language for almost two hours at a special board meeting.

The meeting, held at the Annex of the NorthEast-Millerton Library, was another in a series to allow the board to weigh in on the work of the Zoning Review Committee, which by design has focused primarily on the town's commercial district.

A public hearing eventually will be scheduled to air the proposed changes, which are geared to aligning the current code, which dates to the 1970s, with the vision outlined in the 2019 Comprehensive Plan.

Supervisor Chris Kennan thanked the committee for the work it has done over the past four-plus years and noted that the group of the same six volunteer committee members

have met close to 100 times in carrying out their work, led by Edie Greenwood, chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

"We've been waiting for Warren to go through this," Kennan said, referring to Town Attorney Warren Replansky, who asked questions of the board and the ZRC, which was present.

"This work likely will have the longest term significance of anything this board would do in its current term," Kennan said at the outset.

The discussion was driven by Replansky who focused on details of the suggested changes. That included not only what would or would not be allowed under zoning, but also how it is described in the regulation language.

Replansky noted that litigation arising over zoning matters often pivots on language used. Throughout the discussion he suggested tweaks to wording that would clarify intent.

For example, "what is the definition of public infrastructure?" he asked. Sidewalks should be included as an example, and all agreed.

Board member Meg Win-

kler noted that the proposed language calls for "no more than 12 outdoor seats" for outdoor dining. "Maybe we should allow for up to 20 or leave it to a decision of the Planning Board," she said. There seemed to be consensus on that point.

There were seemingly countless points to deliberate: What is the definition of a golf course? And the definition of a hotel? What is the intent in not allowing motels? Junkyards are not permitted, period. What about food trucks? It was agreed to look at the regulations of the Village of Millerton covering food trucks with an eye to possibly adopt them.

The group was asked "What is the definition of a medical clinic?" And also, whether to use "affordable housing" or "workforce housing," and there seemed to be consensus to use "affordable" but include "also known as 'workforce' housing."

During public comment, Ed Downey, a member of the ZRC, encouraged the board to continue to use the word "affordable" because "in our community the needs are

spread across a lot of different sectors. It's not just people in the workforce." He cited retirees as an example.

The board ran out of the allotted time and will take up discussion of the proposed changes at the next board meeting on Sept. 11.

Downey also took the opportunity to appreciate the fact that this is the 40th year that Warren Replansky has advised the town, noting the attorney's experience in zoning matters.

"We're a very fortunate town," he said.

The board reviewed a proposed three-year IT contract with Professional Computer Associates. Town Supervisor Chris Kennan stressed the need for an exit clause, and Town Attorney Replansky will review the language before a vote on Sept. 11.

Finally, the applicant for the proposed country inn has revised his application, clarifying plans are limited to agri-tourism, not hotel development. The board signaled it wants to move forward quickly, with a decision expected Sept. 11 after legal and zoning review.

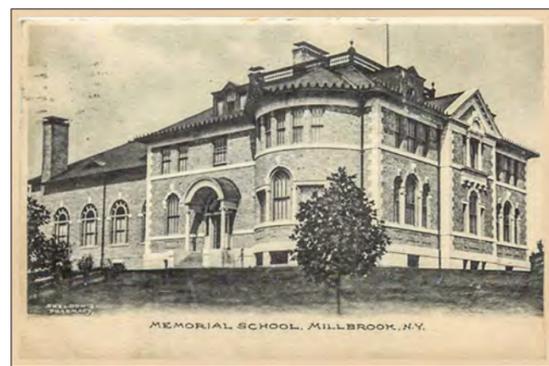


PHOTO PROVIDED

A historical postcard depicting what is now the Thorne Community Building in Millbrook.

Millbrook Historical Society offering autumn walking tours

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Having developed an intriguing idea to offer a narrated stroll about scenic Millbrook combining history, community, anecdotes, and fall colors, the Millbrook Historical Society will offer two such opportunities this fall.

"The focus will be on Millbrook's history and evolution," said Historical Society President Robert McHugh, who announced the program. Included will be the founding of the village and some of the key people, events and places. Topics to be covered will be the early settlers, the impact of the railroad, important businesses, Italian immigration and, of course, Timothy Leary's time in Millbrook.

Designed to be an easy

walk, the total distance will be a bit more than one mile, beginning at the top of the Tribute Garden steps and ending near the Front Street Firehouse.

The first tour is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 27, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and the second tour for Sunday, Oct. 12, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Each tour is limited to 20 participants and is free for members of the Millbrook Historical Society. The cost for each non-member taking the tour is \$20. Here, McHugh notes that "new members are always welcome." To learn more about the amount of the reasonably priced Historical Society membership, go to www.millbrookhistoricalsociety.org.

To reserve a tour spot, email millbrookhistoricalsociety@gmail.com with all relevant information.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

Annual classic car show Sept. 14 at Four Brothers

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Those who revel in owning or viewing classic cars should mark calendars now for the Amenia

Lions Club's annual Classic Car show coming up on Sunday, Sept. 14, at the Four Brothers Drive-in. Hours are 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Admission is free.

The Grand Shack will be

open for coffee, donuts and lunch in conjunction with the show that is being hosted by Four Brothers.

Proceeds of the Classic Car Show will benefit the Amenia Public Library.

For owners of classic cars wishing to participate in the show, there is a \$20 vehicle registration fee. Email to amenialionsclub@gmail.com to register a car in advance or register upon arrival.

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Our projected opening date is September 15.

Learn More
www.eastmountainhouse.org

EELCO KESSELS *Continued from Page A1*

ing the organization as Executive Director for eight years and seeing it through steady growth, according to revenue statements dating back to 2015 published by Pro Publica.

For the last five years, Kessels had been working remotely for the Global Center out of his home in Beacon — a house he bought with his wife and the couple's first home they've ever owned.

"That home buying process was very complex," Kessels said, galvanizing his awareness of the severity of the housing crisis in Dutchess County and the nation more broadly. "Since the pandemic, I mean, housing prices have just gone upside down, so it's very clear to me that this was an issue and something that I've seen." Figures published by the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance show median home prices in Dutchess County have risen 15% from \$398,000 to \$460,000 between 2022 and 2024.

When Kessels went looking for his next opportunity, and decided to hunt for something that could create impact closer to his home, the opening at Habitat Dutchess was a perfect fit.

"Housing affordability is everybody's issue, directly or indirectly — in this county in particular," Kessels said. "So when this opportunity came by, it just ticked all of the boxes."

Four months in, Kessels said, it still feels like a good fit, even though getting acquainted with the job has required a lot of travel. "I felt like I only started to actually be here like three or four weeks in," Kessels said.

Kessels admitted he doesn't have much experience in housing or construction, "except for tinkering around my own house," he said, but he brings over a decade of nonprofit management experience to the chief executive role at a time when Habitat Dutchess is going through a transition.

"I saw here with Habitat

Dutchess that they were just at the brink of becoming more of a developer and being able to serve more of the community," he said. "That's kind of the same moment at which I took over as executive director of my previous nonprofit. Ensuring that the funding relationships grow in the same way, the board diversifies and grows in the same way, the team here has all of the support that they need — I saw that as a comparable experience that I could bring into the organization."

Kessels and Habitat Dutchess Chief Development Officer Jessica Miuccio said the next steps under Kessels' new leadership are measured expansion.

"What makes us so lucky in having Eelco join us is that he's approaching that expansion from a very holistic and strategic point of view," Miuccio said. Kessels and Miuccio emphasized a commitment to working with and for communities as the organization expands and seeks to complete more projects and provide services to the rural reaches of the county.

"If and when we're engaging with a new municipality, part of that process is going to be community outreach and community surveying," Kessels said. "Because at the end of the day it's also a partially volunteer-based project, and we really want the community to be part of that — including the future homeowners, because they're going to be part and parcel of the same."

Last year, Habitat for Humanity completed their first home in the northeast Dutchess County region. The house, on Rudd Pond Road in the town of North East, marked a major step in a years-long process to engage the region that started with offering no-cost repairs to houses and mobile homes in the town, Kessels said.

More information on Habitat Dutchess's services, volunteering or donating is available online at www.habitatdutchess.org.

EMPRESS EMS *Continued from Page A1*

ership could bring a variety of changes to North East and Millerton, including EMS response time, cost and the health and safety of the community, Supervisor Kennan said he received a verbal indication that Empress would honor the town's existing contract with NDP, which was renewed for three years in December.

In 2025, the town is paying \$511,558 for contracted services with NDP and the cost is expected to increase to \$746,345 by 2027.

"In the short term, we should not be impacted by this change," Kennan said. He added that the current contract with NDP has a stipulation that any new owner must

honor the existing contract.

The news comes after Kennan and other towns have criticized the high costs of emergency medical services, which makes up a sizable chunk of the town's budget and burdens taxpayers. Along with the Association of Towns, Kennan has urged New York Governor Kathy Hochul to sign a bill that has passed in the Senate and the Assembly and would exempt EMS services from the state's property tax cap, giving local governments more flexibility to manage costs and sustain their EMS programs.

The bill would allow municipalities to better respond to EMS price hikes in their budgets, but it otherwise

does not address those rising costs or poorer-than-typical service in rural communities like North East, Amenia and Dover.

Based in Yonkers, Empress EMS has a hub in Poughkeepsie and operates in Dutchess, Westchester, Rockland, Ulster, Putnam, Sullivan and Orange counties, as well as the Bronx. The company's acquisition of NDP marks its continued expansion north — in 2021 Empress purchased EMStar and Mobile Life, pushing its way deeper into the Hudson Valley.

In January, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino announced that Empress won the bid to become the primary provider of supplemental EMS services, a move made

by the county in an effort to address long wait times for 911 calls. While successful in more densely populated areas, rural areas like North East, Amenia and Dover saw no visits from the supplemental services in quarter two of 2025.

According to the 2025 second quarter EMS report published by Dutchess County, all but one town in the county is serviced by either NDP or Empress. The merger would make Empress the sole EMS provider in the county except for the City of Beacon.

While there is no confirmed timeframe for the transition of ownership, Kennan said NDP owner Ed Murray indicated it was "moving quickly."

HIKING *Continued from Page A1*

As I wended through the trail with manageable inclines and declines, I followed the blue trail markers which appeared frequently on the trees.

Although my heart beat rapidly and I was getting a workout, my mind and body calmed the second I stepped off of the concrete and onto the trail. The sights and sounds around me captured my attention and I absorbed everything I could in the 2.6 miles that separated me from the edge of the woods and the resumption of real life responsibilities.

The trail remained non-technical and beginner friendly with easy footing, allowing me to keep my head and eyes up. Along with the marginal wood ferns, the trail was lined with common witch hazel, white birch and the occasional white baneberry. I was greeted by chipmunks and squirrels who scurried across the trail ahead of me, and the birds, visible and hidden, accompanied my trek with their songs.

Along with the melodious and regular crunch coming from under my boots, the flow of an upcoming body of water bubbled through the brush. The trickling water



PHOTO BY GRACE DEMARCO

Distant ridges occasionally peak through the dense tree cover on the Alander Mountain Trail, providing a view of the rugged Oblong Valley landscape.

added to the already present harmonies of nature all around me. Shortly after, at about 0.6 miles, I approached a culvert and crossed over a small stream toward another split in the trail.

At the fork, the blue trail veers to the right and straight up Alander Mountain, but bare left for the CCC loop which remains manageable and be-

ginner friendly. Although the loop was unmarked, the trail was unmistakable.

It seemed to be the road less traveled, in the best way possible, as the trail thinned and wound toward a shaded downhill stretch. Here, I was even more a part of my surroundings. The trees provided refuge from the sun which peaked through the gaps in leaves, offering a welcoming and cooling breeze. A black and white striped feather had dropped from its original wearer and was now, like the leaves, a part of the trail.

As I approached the tip of the CCC loop, marking the halfway point of my adventure, I curved through a grassy area and was met by a frog who hopped across into the shelter of the nearby foliage. I heard the frog longer than I saw him, as the leaves rustled with its every movement.

After walking around a white birch road block, two stone walls corralled the trail until the loop circled back and met up with the blue trail.

The scent of pine and something sweet lingered in the air when I stopped for a moment after hearing rustling in the grass. From out of the brush, turkeys, one after the other, emerged just feet ahead from my right. Some ran, some flew, but no less than twenty turkeys flapped their wings and waved me goodbye.

After they finished their grand gesture, I stood there

and thanked myself for lacing up my boots and walking the trail. To encounter animals and plants in a place we all share is a gift. Taking the time for myself and getting out there was the best thing I could do.

As the warmth of summer lingers and gives way to fall, it is the perfect time to grab your old and dusty boots from the attic and get back out there. It is also the perfect time to step out onto the trail for the first time. Let the breeze push you toward the everchanging landscape of the forest, especially through the changing of the seasons. The trails will always be there for you.

Alander Brook and CCC Trail is not the only trail in the area. For a moderate 5-mile trail look to Mount Frizzell and Brace Mountain Loop Trail. For a short, yet steep, trail with waterfalls, look to the Quarry Hill Trail. For an easy 2.4 mile hike, look at the Mary Moore Cliff Trail Loop.

For more information on hikes nearby, complete with maps, reviews, and difficulty ratings, alltrails.com is a great and free resource.

Whether it's short, long, fast, slow, completely flat or a vertical climb, the trees will overshadow your worries, and the breeze will carry you along. The hardest part is getting there.

After that, it's just a walk in the woods.

WIDOWS WEEDS *Continued from Page A1*

one-day only at the Stissing Center on Saturday, Sept. 6 at 4 p.m.

Widow's Weeds is based on the true story of Mary Ingalls, an 84-year-old Revolutionary War widow who, in 1842, fought to receive her late husband's military pension using only her memories and oral testimony.

Wapnick was inspired to write Widow's Weeds after a descendant of Mary and Elihu Ingalls, who were married in Pine Plains in the late 1700s, donated family research to the historical society. When the opportunity to apply for a Dutchess County Department of History grant arose, she saw a chance to bring their little-known story to life on stage.

After extensive research and conversations with descendants of Mary and Elihu Ingalls, Wapnick says telling their story carries a sense of vindication. "These widows went through so much just to be recognized," she says. "As a widow myself, I could relate to Mary — there was a real kinship." Wapnick believes the play is important not only for the Ingalls family, but also "to highlight a forgotten segment of history."

As a historian, Wapnick says "it was important to keep the story as accurate as possible." She says it was a unique challenge to stay true to the facts while crafting a narrative compelling enough for the stage. There are moments



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Grace Dietrich, left, Dean Temple, and James Elvin, right, running lines on stage at the Stissing Center on Thursday, Aug. 28. Widow's Weeds is being directed by Robert C. Lyons.

the enduring impact of the American Revolution on local communities, in honor of its 250th anniversary.

Rooted in history and guided by Wapnick's pen, a love story, a ghost story, and a fight for women's rights intertwine in this remarkable true account. The performance is free and open to the public, though reservations are required through the Stissing Center website.

where she allowed creative choices to take the lead, stepping slightly away from strict historical accuracy in service of the story.

For example, though she had access to the depositions from the late 1800s, the language was "dry, rambling and dated." Wapnick says she edited the dialogue to add color and modernize it, while keeping the original essence.

Additionally, a funeral scene is styled like a medieval wake. "The inspiration is drawn from a different historical time period," Wapnick says, "but the mood just felt right."

Though Widow's Weeds is her first play, Wapnick is no stranger to writing. She researches and pens the monologues for Pine Plains' annual cemetery tours and even has

an unpublished novel. "But a play is exciting in a completely different way," she says.

With rehearsals well underway, Wapnick credits New York City playwright and director Robert C. Lyons with bringing the production to life on stage. A Pine Plains resident and seasoned director, Lyons has included Wapnick in the creative process throughout rehearsals. "Robert is a fantastic director — he keeps things moving and has brought this so far in a short time," says Wapnick.

Widow's Weeds was made possible in part by a \$9,475 grant from the Dutchess County Department of History. The Rev250 grant — a \$100,000 initiative funded by the Dutchess County Legislature — supports public programming that explores

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

ART: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

The art of Marilyn Hock



PHOTO PROVIDED

Rock Steady Farm during the 2024 Farm Fall Block Party. This year's event returns Sept. 6.

COMMUNITY: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Farm Fall Block Party returns to Rock Steady Farm

On Saturday, Sept. 6, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Rock Steady Farm in Millerton opens its fields once again for the third annual Farm Fall Block Party, a vibrant, heart-forward gathering of queer and BIPOC farmers, neighbors, families, artists, and allies from across the Hudson Valley and beyond.

Co-hosted with Catalyst Collaborative Farm, The Watershed Center, WILDSEED Community Farm & Healing Village, and Seasoned Delicious Foods, this year's party promises its biggest celebration yet. Part harvest festival, part community reunion, the gathering

is a reflection of the region's rich agricultural and cultural ecosystem.

Rooted in justice and joy, the event will feature over 25 local vendors and organizations, live performances, healing workshops, family-friendly activities (yes, there's a bouncy castle), and abundant local food. And while the festivities are certainly reason enough to show up, organizers remind us the purpose runs deeper.

"This isn't just a party.

It's a place to build the kind of relationships that keep our food system alive," said Maggie Cheney, Rock Steady's co-founder and worker-owner. "We're creating space where farmers, growers, families, and community organizers can connect, celebrate, and support one another."

Proceeds from the event support Rock Steady's POLLINATE program for queer and trans BIPOC beginning

farmers, as well as Catalyst Collaborative Farm's food justice initiatives. With sliding-scale tickets from \$5 to \$250, the organizers aim to make the event accessible to all, including free entry for children under 12 and volunteer options for those who want to pitch in.

For those who've attended before, it's a welcome return. For newcomers, it may just feel like coming home.

More info and tickets: rocksteadyfarm.com/farm-block-party

It takes a lot of courage to share your art for the first time and Marilyn Hock is taking that leap with her debut exhibition at Sharon Town Hall on Sept. 12. A realist painter with a deep love for wildlife, florals, and landscapes, Hock has spent the past few years immersed in watercolor, teaching herself, failing forward, and returning again and again to the page. This 18-piece collection is a testament to courage, practice and a genuine love for the craft.

"I always start with the eyes," said Hock of her animal portraits. "That's where the soul lives." This attentiveness runs through her work,

each piece rendered with care, clarity, and a respect for the subtle variations of color and light in the natural world.

After painting in oils earlier in life, Hock returned to art when she retired from working as a paralegal with a goal: to learn watercolor. It wasn't easy.

"Oils and watercolor are opposites," she explained. "With oils, you build your darks first. In watercolor, if you do that, you're in trouble." She studied online, finding instructors whose approach clicked, and adapted to the delicacy of the medium.

"When I'm work-

Continued on next page



PHOTO PROVIDED

Waterlily (8"x12") made by Marilyn Hock

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COMPASS

BOOKS: OLIVIA GEIGER

Reading and recommendations from Carissa Unite of Oblong Books

Carissa Unite of Millerton, began working at Oblong Books 16 years ago as a high schooler. She recently celebrated her eight-year anniversary as the general manager.

Unite's journey at Oblong began even before she applied for her first position. An avid reader from a young age, she was a frequent customer at the store. During those years, Unite bonded with a former employee who encouraged her to apply for a position after connecting over their shared love of reading.

As a teenager, Unite enjoyed reading Ellen Hopkins, John Green and Ann Brashares. With the busyness of adulthood, she now favors the convenience of audio books. In the past year, however, she has made it a point to read more physical books.

With a preference for contemporary fiction, she raved about "Atmosphere" by Taylor Jenkins Reid. The story, set in the 1980s, follows two women who become astronauts at a time when women were not widely accepted in the field. A beautiful love story emerges between the two characters. Unite described the writing as sensational and commended Reid's ability to tackle complex themes without them being



Carissa Unite, general manager of Oblong Books in Millerton.

PHOTO PROVIDED

muddled.

Unite has developed a deep appreciation for classic literature. Her two favorites are "Giovanni's Room" by James Baldwin and "The Picture of Dorian Gray" by Oscar Wilde. She was amazed by the philosophical nature of both words and the way their

dialogue challenged her perspective.

In an effort to read beyond her preferred genre, she recommends the following:

"Some Desperate Glory," by Emily Tesh, "Midnight Rooms," by Donya Coles and "Clear" by Carys Davies.

For Unite, the beau-

ty of reading lies in its power to develop perspective, empathy, and compassion. Through books, readers learn that everyone is fighting different battles and no two stories are the same. She encourages people to choose kindness because you never know what someone else is facing.

Above all, reading brings Unite peace. It offers transcendence to another world, a pause from outside noise, and for Unite, it is where she feels most at home.

For anyone hesitant to being reading, Unite suggests: just do it! Read 10 pages a day and find the book that speaks to you. Any Oblong staff member would be happy to offer recommendations.

Oblong is located at 26 Main St., in Millerton and 6422 Montgomery St. in Rhinebeck.



PHOTO BY ROBIN RORABACK

Photographer Sarah Blodgett displayed her prints on canvas at the Souterrain Gallery of The Wish House during the Open Studio Tour in Cornwall.

ART: ROBIN RORABACK

Cornwall open studios returns

The weather was perfect on Saturday, Aug. 30, for the 19th annual Artists' Studio Tour in Cornwall, held each Labor Day weekend.

Organizer David Colbert said, "It has become quite a tradition."

Colbert's studio was one of 10 on this year's tour. His large geometric works line a sculpture walk near the studio, which those on the tour

were welcome to enjoy. Another stop was at Tim Prentice's barn and studio. Prentice is famous for his kinetic sculptures, which were on display in the barn and surrounding fields. Now in his 90s, Prentice held court in his nearby studio. With his eyesight failing due to macular degeneration, he has turned to drawing. Prentice recently

Continued on next page

...Marilyn Hock *Continued from Page B1*

ing, everything else falls away," she said. "It doesn't matter what's going on in life. While I'm painting, time disappears."

Her studio, formerly a home office, is now her sanctuary and the pieces in this exhibition are the result of three years of that devoted studio work. While this is her first full

public show, Hock previously tested the waters at a small fundraiser at Noble Horizons, where one of her pieces sold. That experience — and the consistent encouragement from her family, especially her husband — pushed her to pursue a full exhibition. With gentle encouragement from her husband and family, Hock reached

out to the Town Hall's curator, Zelina Blagden. "My husband kept saying, 'You're as good as all those other people out there, why not show your work?'" And so, here it is.

All paintings in the show are for sale, though Hock admits a few are priced high — not because of their size or complexity — but because she's not quite

ready to let them go. "There are a couple I've priced high because I'm not sure I want to part with them. But we'll see," she laughed. "It would be nice to support the habit a little bit."

As for aspiring artists or anyone hesitating to begin something cre-

ative, Hock's advice is simple: "Go for it. If it fails, toss it in the basket and start over."

The exhibit will be on view at Sharon Town Hall through Oct. 31 with an opening reception on Sept. 12 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

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The Ungardener: by the books

It was a bit unfair, in my last column, to write a critique of a well-regarded plant reference book (“When the guide gets it wrong”) without recommending a satisfactory replacement or two.

As a novice gardener, I found plant selection — native or not — to be overwhelming and relied on website databases that let me enter soil, moisture, light and critter criteria, then return options I could research. Unsurprisingly, this yielded little garden satisfaction in situ. It may well be that it takes a little poetry to create a garden.

That’s where books come in. A well-written reference book can provide the kind of commentary that goes beyond a plant’s likelihood of survival in one’s garden.

Page Dickey’s (a well-known garden writer and landscape designer who lives in Falls Village) go-to on native plants is the three-volume set by Michael Cullina who led The Wildflower Society (now called The Native Plant Trust). Each book delves into different categories of plants: one on native trees, shrubs and vines (“one of my bibles” is the inscription on the opening page), another on native ferns, mosses and grasses and a third on wildflowers.

Dickey’s copies evidence of heavy use; in addition to hand-written commentary, there are check marks for the plants that she has either grown or identified. After a perusal, I looked more closely to get Cullina’s take on some of my favorite plants. While disappointed to find only one of the three types of aralias I admire — *Aralia spinosa*, the Devil’s Walking Stick — I was amazed to read about some fantastic species I



didn’t know.

With their ease of use and combination of fact and considered opinion, the books function a bit like Dirr’s “Hardy Trees and Shrubs,” the subject of my last column. Unlike Dirr’s book — which ignores the role of native plants in maintaining habitats and glosses over the invasive tendencies of many plants that Dirr extolls — Cullina’s books help the reader understand the importance of specific plants and the roles they play in keeping our environments healthy for all animals, including us.

Doug Tallamy, the renowned entomologist and co-founder of Homegrown National Park, once provided data that was incorporated into the Native Plant Finder database for the National Wildlife Foundation. He stands by the practicality of digital databases for supplying information that can be updated as the environment continues to change.

Still, Tallamy is partial to a number of reference books and cited two he has relied on for years: “Native Plants of the Northeast” by Donald J. Leopold, and “Native Trees for North American Landscapes” by Guy Sternberg.

“They were among the early books I encountered when I started thinking about native plants,” said Tallamy. “They are rich in good photos, and they describe the conditions under which various species do well. I like Guy’s books in part because he does his best to talk about how they meet the needs of various animal species. No other book talks much about the in-



PHOTOS BY DEE SALOMON

Michele Paladino’s nursery, “Lindera” in Falls Village.

sects that plants support because when they were written, we knew little about host plant associations.”

Much of what I’ve planted successfully in the past two years came at the recommendation of Michele Paladino, a plantswoman, landscape designer and proprietor of Lindera, a nursery specializing in native plants. She recently relocated the nursery to the former Falls Village Flower Farm.

Like Dickey and Tallamy, Paladino also turns to a few essential sources. “When I’m working on a project, I really want to ponder trees and their character. I always go back to books for inspiration.”

She, too, recommends Sternberg’s book as a go-to reference on trees, and highlights the two books by Carol Gracie on both Spring and Summer wildflowers. These two books delve more deeply into fewer plants — most, but not all, native — pointing out the insects and birds that they attract and including hand-drawn illustrations.

I was surprised to see two pages dedicated to broadleaf helleborine, a non-native orchid I’ve had my eye on in the woods for a while. Gracie argues both for and against this plant; her verdict is: pull them out.

Although she would not want to be characterized this way, Pala-



dino is the best kind of human reference guide to native plants, sharing both essential plant information and her editorial perspective.

With Fall planting season at our doorstep, I recommend a visit to her nursery, located where the Falls Village Flower Farm used to be. Come with questions, as Paladino likes to consult and collaborate with clients.

There is always lasting affection for books that sparked our curiosity for a lifelong passion. The books Dickey, Tallamy and Paladino recommend were last published a couple of decades ago. They recognize that they are trading

some up-to-date accuracy of information for prose that inspires and provokes — sentiment is preferred.

Might publishers reissue these books in digital form? That would allow for contemporary updates on plant diseases, soil chemistry changes and invasive species associated with climate change — as well as the resulting species decline we, and entire ecosystems, are rapidly experiencing.

Done well, it could thread the needle between accuracy and allure.

Dee Salomon ‘ungardens’ in Litchfield County.

...studios

Continued from previous page

completed “a series of trees before the leaves come out and obscure the structure. I do them from memory.” Drawings on display in his barn were being snapped up by tourgoers, with profits going to help fight macular degeneration.

At the Souterrain Gallery of the Wish House, first-time tour participant and basket maker Tina Puckett sat outside demonstrating her art. Inside the gallery, her unique baskets were on display. “I think the studio tour is great for the public and for us,” she said.

Also, at Souterrain, another first-timer, photographer Sarah Blodgett, showed her work. Photographs printed on canvas

were vibrant with colors. She said she works on these in the winter when she can’t be outside doing wildlife photography which, is “near and dear to my heart.” There were samples of that as well.

Other artists on the tour included shoemaker Lauren Brinker, photographer Stephan Sagmiller, potter Sanah Peterson, painters Magaly Ohika, Emily Waters, and Debby Jones, photographer Nick Jacobs, and poet/artist Sally Van Doren.

The tour is a unique opportunity to chat with artists, view and purchase their work, and see their studios.

For more information go to: <https://cornwallct.org/event/cornwall-open-studio-2025/>



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SEPT. 6 & 10

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Jeff Daniels
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Q&A on Sept. 6 with veteran reporters **Brian Ross & John Coston**

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COMPASS

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

SEPTEMBER 4

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

Thursday, Sept. 4, 5:30 p.m. Painter Heather Neilson and photographer Babs Perkins in conversation about their current dual exhibition at the library, Driftlines, which is on display through Sept. 12. Refreshments will be served.

Thomas Franken: "Yesterday & Today"

Kent Art Association, 29 South Main St., Kent, Conn.

Opening Reception: Saturday, Sept. 6, 5 to 7 p.m. Exhibition Dates: Sept. 1 to 30. A special showing of over 25 original works, including large-scale paintings not previously exhibited. Reception coincides with the KAA's Sculpture Invitational Show.

Local Author: Leigh Stein at The White Hart

The White Hart, 15 Undermountain Rd., Salisbury, Conn.

At 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 4, Leigh Stein discusses her new novel "If You're Seeing This, It's Meant for You" in conversation with Amelia Wilson. Tickets \$15, includes a drink and \$5 book voucher. Presented by Oblong Books, the White Hart Inn, and Scoville Library.

SEPTEMBER 5

Art Opening: Sand Unbound/Corralled

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

New work by Fedora Maier. The show runs from Sept. 5 to 27, with an opening on the 5th from 5 to 7 p.m.

Four Paths to Abstraction

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y.

Artist Talk: Friday, Sept. 5, 5 p.m. (Jenny Kemp & Courtney Puckett). Public Reception: Friday,

Sept. 5, 6 to 7:30 p.m. This group exhibition features four contemporary artists exploring abstraction through paint, textiles, and found materials. Presented by the Millbrook Arts Project. More info: millbrooklibrary.org/millbrook-arts-project

Banned Book Club: As I Lay Dying

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

Friday, Sept. 5 at 4 p.m.

David M. Hunt Library and the Falls Village Equity Project will host a Banned Book Club. This month we will be discussing the book "As I Lay Dying" by William Faulkner. Copies of the book are available at the library. This group is open to anyone high school aged and older.

SEPTEMBER 6

AI: Prompting and Practical Tools with Pam Doran

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org

Saturday, Sept. 6, 11 a.m. to noon. This session is interactive, showing several AI tools such as ChatGPT, Perplexity, and others in action. Pam will demonstrate the differences in their outputs, how prompt wording affects results, and techniques for getting reliable, source-cited responses. We'll also discuss responsible use of AI for learning and creativity. Pam can run all tools using only browser-based tools.

Estate Planning

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

Saturday, Sept. 6, at 2 p.m. learn more about estate planning and ways of charitable giving from attorneys Warren Whitaker and Jordan Richards.

Bundle Dyeing at Maitri Farm

143 Amenia Union Rd, Amenia, N.Y.

Sept. 6, 4:30 p.m. Learn the art of natural dyeing with local flowers grown on Maitri Farm! Participants will be provided with a silk scarf and cotton bandana to create kaleidoscope compositions of natural color. The process is experimental and fun with such rewarding results!

Lobster Dinner from Westerly Canteen at Hammertown Barn

3201 NY-199, Pine Plains N.Y.

Hammertown hosts Westerly Canteen for a special additional dinner service. The a la carte menu will include a full lobster dinner with some other coastal specialties: clams, corn, tomato salad. Reservations required. Send an email to hello@westerlycanteen.com.

Donald Sosin & Joanna Seaton: Silent Film & Live Music

Gordon Hall, Music Mountain, 225 Music Mountain Road, Falls Village, Conn.

Sept. 6, 7 p.m. Screening of F.W. Murnau's Sunrise (1927) with live music by Donald Sosin (piano) and Joanna Seaton (vocals/percussion). A landmark silent film accompanied by original music from renowned performers and composers.

A Special Evening with Nathan Kernan

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

Sept. 6 at 5 p.m. Author Nathan Kernan's "A Day Like Any Other: The Life of James Schuyler" is the

Last week's WotW

S	C	O	N	E
C	H	E	A	P
R	E	A	C	H
B	E	A	C	H
T	E	A	C	H

long-awaited definitive biography of this great American poet (1923-1991). He will be in conversation with Alice Quinn. Books will be available for purchase. Attend in-person only. Registration is required. cornwalllibrary.org

Celebrate America's 250th Birthday

Graham-Brush House, Pine Plains, N.Y.

Saturday, Sept. 6 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: Free Hosted by the Little Nine Partners Historical Society. Enjoy blacksmith demos, reenactments, house tours, talks, and a cooking demo. 4 p.m.: Widow's Weeds, a new play by Dyan Wapnick at The Stissing Center (Free, reservation required: widows-weeds.eventbrite.com)

SEPTEMBER 7

Book Release: CLOUD WARRIORS, Author Thomas E. Weber in conversation with John Coston

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

5 to 6 p.m., join author Thomas Weber and Lakeville Journal/ Millerton News Editor at Large John Coston for a conversation about Weber's new book, CLOUD WARRIORS. Learn about weather-prediction pioneers and groundbreaking technologies that are transforming our ability

to foresee and respond to deadly storms, wildfires, heat waves, and other increasingly dangerous weather events. Registration is required, and information is available at scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/15079670

FAMILY EVENT: "Pirate Song" by Up in Arms Puppets

Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.

Sept. 7 at 3 p.m. Paulette the Pirate Princess sets sail with her dog Waffle in search of her own song, traveling the globe and meeting animals who share music, wisdom, and culture. From a dragon in Japan to a koala in Australia, Paulette learns to embrace her uniqueness and returns home ready to lead — with a song that's all her own.

'Let's Make Art' classes for Adults

Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Road, Copake, N.Y.

Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Road, offers Let's Make Art classes.

Three Let's Make Art classes for adults take place Sundays from 3 to 5 p.m.: Sept. 7, Marbling Paper. The cost is \$10/ session for adults

Tickets may be purchased at the door. To get more information contact cleo42002@yahoo.com or 917-539-2009.

SEPTEMBER 9

Preventing Fraud: Learn How To Protect Your Personal & Financial Information

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

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., join experts Kathleen Titsworth of the Connecticut Department of Banking and Audrey Cole from the Senior Medicare Patrol of the Western CT Area Agency on Aging to hear about common financial frauds and scams and learn how to protect your confidential financial and health-care information. Registration is required, and information is available at scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/14603522.

SEPTEMBER 10

Easy Reversible Double Knitting with Bruce Weinstein

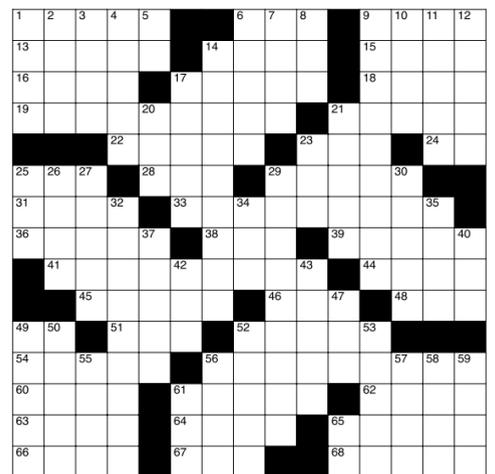
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org

On three Wednesdays starting Sept. 10, from 2 to 4 p.m., knitting expert and best-selling author Bruce Weinstein will teach easy double-knitting to create fabric that is totally reversible. This fun, focused workshop is recommended for adults with some knitting experience. Registration is required, and information is available at scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/15080850.

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- Fairly large
- Barrels per day (abbr.)
- Cover the entirety of
- Leafy appetizer
- Showy ornament
- Norse personification of old age
- Athletes
- Closes tightly
- Attack via hurling items
- Where the reserves stand
- Sword
- Begat
- Damage another's reputation
- Northeast
- Turf
- For each
- Hours (Spanish)
- Western state
- One who offers help
- Flanks
- A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- Free from drink or drugs
- Tunnels
- Mature
- More dried-up
- News organization
- Steal something
- Forms one's public persona (abbr.)
- Female fish eggs
- Small petrel of southern seas
- Edible starches
- Historical
- In a place to sleep
- Horse grooms
- Off-Broadway theater award
- Chinese dynasty
- Resembling a wing
- Small projection on a bird's wing
- Of the Isle of Man
- Derived unit of force (abbr.)
- Plate for Eucharist



- Beat poet Ginsberg
- Cave deposit material
- Home energy backup
- Begets
- Face part
- Frocks
- Hill or rocky peak
- Giving the impression of dishonesty
- About ear
- Male parents
- Popular grilled food
- Vaccine developer
- Not conforming
- Polite address for women
- 1970 U.S. environmental law
- Astronomical period of 18 years
- One who fights the government
- Center for Excellence in Education
- Watches discreetly
- An electrically charged atom
- Hymn
- Arabic given name
- Popular pie nut
- City in Zambia
- Species of cherry
- John __, British writer
- Be next to
- Make angry
- Give birth to a lamb or kid
- Unhappy

August 28 Solution

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

Sudoku

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

August 28 Solution

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

Level: Intermediate

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.

- The opposite of tall
- Not in working condition
- Batman's sidekick
- A shady garden alcove
- Hard work

WORD OF THE WEEK ©THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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OUR TOWNS

Summer in Copake sees three sales over \$1M

By CHRISTINE BATES
Special to the Millerton News

COPAKE — In June, the Town of Copake experienced another month of high real estate activity with eight properties transferred at arm's length.

The three sales over \$1 million reflect the sale of large, very contemporary homes on large parcels that are available in the town and lakefront properties. The same modest to magnificent spectrum is revealed in more than 10 homes on the market now with a median listing price of \$649,500.

184A Cambridge Road — 3 bedroom/5.5 contemporary home on 8.46 acres transferred by Scot E. Cohen and Julie Cohen for \$3 million on June 6.

16 Deerfield Circle — 3 bedroom/2 bath ranch on 3.16 acres sold by Colleen and Fred R. Miller to David Julien and April J. Whalen for \$625,000 on June 9.

1175 County Route 27A — 133 acres of land transferred by 1175 Ventures LLC to Marc Robbins as Trustee and Carol Chang as Trustee and JP Morgan Trust Company of Delaware as Trustee for the Robbins-Chang Family Trust for \$1,195,000 on June 9.

1731 State Route 23 — 2 bedroom/1.5 bath home on .4 acres transferred by Jennifer Fitzgerald and Jeffrey Gore to Spencer A. Hughes and Nina Marie Doig for \$365,000 on June 10.

3 Island Drive — 3 bedroom/1.5 bath on .26 acres transferred by Mark Levinson

and Melissa Brown to Matthew Patrick Hendrickson and Brianne Kelly Hendrickson-Smith for \$495,000 on June 11.

70 Birch Hill Road — 5 bedroom/3.5 bath home on 6 acres sold by Paul Rousseau to Brett Sirota for \$2.15 million on June 17.

1254 Lakeview Road — 3 bedroom/2 bath home on .23 acres transferred by Vivian Trakinsky to Mark and Melissa Brown for \$560,000 on June 18.

45 Tamarac Road — 3 bedroom/2 bath split level transferred by Kevin Kieran to Collaborative Cats Inc. for \$750,000 on June 27.

*Town of Copake real estate recorded as sold with consideration by unrelated parties is derived from Columbia County public deed transfers with property details from SDQ Imagemate. Active listings data reported from realtor.com, and Trulia.com. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Advisor with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in Connecticut and New York.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Looking out over Robinson Pond, 1254 Lakeview Road built in 1970 and recently renovated was sold for \$560,000.

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