



**MILLERTON**  
Hispanic  
Heritage  
Festival A3



**MILLBROOK**  
Volunteer  
Fair A7



**COMPASS**  
Recycled  
Runway;  
And More  
B1-2

## Town Board talks highway garage, budget, housing

By **EMILY EDELMAN**  
emilye@millertonnews.com

**MILLERTON** — The North East Town Board discussed affordable housing, the town's new highway garage, and the preliminary 2024 budget at its meeting on Thursday, Oct. 12.

Mark Long of CPL Architecture, Engineering and Planning gave the board an update on the building progress of the new highway garage. The dimensions of the building are "about 80 by 30" and 32 feet high inside. The building has room to store the Highway Department's equipment as well

as offices for staff. A wash bay will clean off equipment, and there will be a kitchen, restrooms, a shower, and a lift for equipment.

A mason will be installing the wash bay "very soon," according to Long, along with finishing framing the walls, plumbing and HVAC. Once the building is complete, paving will happen and the entrance driveway will be reconfigured. Long said completion of the building is expected by late November.

Councilwoman Meg Winkler reported that the board's Housing Committee is working with

See **TOWN BOARD, PAGE A8**



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

From left, Dan Barufaldi, Ghent Town Board; Lisa DeLeeuw, Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association executive director; HVRTA Chair Phil Meeks; Ghent Town Supervisor Craig Simmons; John Howe, Mayor of Chatham; and Mark Morrison of MKM Landscape and Architecture of New York at a meeting in Ghent on Sunday, Oct. 15, regarding the expansion of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail.

## Big turnout for discussion of 8-mile rail trail extension

By **JUDITH O'HARA BALFE**  
judithb@millertonnews.com

**GHENT** — Approximately 150 people turned out for the information session hosted by the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association (HVRTA) in on Sunday, Oct. 15.

The meeting hall of the Ghent VFW was just about filled to capacity

in a gathering that also served as HVRTA's annual membership meeting.

The invitation was extended to the public to discuss the 8-mile expansion of the rail trail from Philmont to Ghent. The conversation was spearheaded by HVRTA Chair Phil Meeks, HVRTA Executive Director Lisa DeLeeuw, and

Mark Morrison of engineering firm of MKM Landscape Architecture of New York, which is planning the 8-mile extension.

Aside from a detailed description of the addition to the existing rail trail replete with maps, PowerPoint slides and lively discussion,

See **RAIL TRAIL, PAGE A8**



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

From left: Amenia Town Board candidates Rosanna Hamm, Paul Winters and incumbent Vicki Doyle; and Amenia Town Supervisor candidate Leo Blackman and incumbent Victoria Perotti at a meet-the-candidates event on Wednesday, Oct. 11, at Webutuck High School

## Amenia candidates field voters' questions

By **JUDITH O'HARA BALFE**  
judithb@millertonnews.com

**AMENIA** — In a two-hour forum sponsored by TriCorner News and moderated by the League of Women Voters, five candidates for seats on Amenia's Town Board met Wednesday, Oct. 11, in the auditorium of Webutuck High School with about 80 constituents and voters.

Introduced by John Coston, editor-in-chief of The Millerton News, the three candidates vying

for the two seats on the Amenia Town Board were incumbent Vicki Doyle, Rosanna Hamm and Paul Winters. This is a four-year term.

Doyle, a Democrat, is senior development associate at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. She has served on the board since 2004.

Winters is chairman of the Amenia Recreation Commission, and is a Republican candidate on

See **CANDIDATES, PAGE A8**



PHOTO BY DEBORAH MAIER

Manager Lori Holah, left, and student apprentice cook Dominyck Perez at the grill at Richie's Deli in Amenia on Thursday, Oct. 12.

## Work-based learning takes off at Webutuck

By **DEBORAH MAIER**  
Special to The Millerton News

**AMENIA** — In a ramping-up of an experiential-based program to prepare students for the workforce, Webutuck High School's Work Based Learning (WBL) program is exceeding expectations with 22 students involved, and looking to expand even more.

"We're creating pathways for students in the directions they want to go," said high school

Principal Robert Knuschke, who is in his second year in the district. Responding to the community, the program offers a range of skills not normally taught or practiced in schools. Student choice of direction is important in the process, and they are encouraged to branch out.

WBL is part of New York State's Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) initiative under its Career and Technical

See **WORK-BASED, PAGE A8**



### CONTACT

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### OPINION

Hello Autumn;  
Letters **B3**

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## OUR TOWNS

# Amenia Recreation Commission discusses enhancement projects

By LEILA HAWKEN  
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — Focusing on a goal to enhance town areas for recreational use by residents and visitors, the Amenia Recreation Commission agreed at its meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 10, to proceed with creation of design plans for the Amenia Green project.

Landscape architect Jane Didona of Didona Associates in Danbury, Connecticut, will create the drawings as part of the engineering plan to develop the town-owned land surrounding the Town Hall. The cost of that portion of the Amenia Green design planning is estimated at \$90,000.

Rather than wait until next year's grant application cycle, the commission agreed

to pursue other fundraising avenues to move the design planning ahead.

Generalized estimates forecast that the Amenia Green project could be expected to cost \$600,000 to \$800,000 to complete, although more exact cost estimates will be available once the design phase is completed.

### Wassaic Park

The commission estimated that an additional \$120,000 could be needed to create similarly detailed plans for Wassaic Park, a second recreational enhancement project for the town in the village of Wassaic.

"We can't do anything yet with many items involved with improvements to Wassaic Park," said commission Chair Paul Winters, indicat-

ing that plans would need to wait until the Highway Department garage is moved to its new location on Route 22.

The commission did agree, however, to preliminarily accept a broad conceptual plan created by Didona in early October describing a location for playground equipment and the possible creation of a pump track for sport bicyclists, part of the planning for Wassaic Park.

### Beekman Park

Plans to replace the playground equipment at Beekman Park have made progress. Winters reported on Friday, Oct. 13, that the town's application for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), will be submitted to Dutchess County Planning and Development before the

application deadline of Friday, Oct. 20.

Winters said that he is hopeful that the application will result in receiving the CDBG grant in 2024.

Repairs to the concession stand continue in the planning stage. The commission estimated that \$20,000 to \$30,000 would be needed just to purchase the necessary materials.

### Trunk or Treat for Halloween

Recreation director Katie Sterk-Grassi reported that the annual Trunk or Treat event at Beekman Park will be held on Sunday, Oct. 29, between 1 and 2:30 p.m. Anyone wanting to dispense treats will need to register with the Recreation office. There is no fee for registration.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

## Moviegoers in 'Style' for Taylor Swift

Sienna, left, and Amelia dressed for the "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" movie on Sunday, Oct. 15, at the Moviehouse in Millerton with cowboy boots, jean jacket, floaty skirt and, of course, red lipstick.



## Annual 2024 budget process underway

By LEILA HAWKEN  
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — Departmental budget requests for the 2024 budget year having been assembled, the Amenia Town Board met for a workshop meeting on those requests on Thursday, Oct. 12, planning to meet again on Monday, Oct. 16, for another workshop to hone the requests into a tentative proposed budget document.

Town government representatives from each of the town's departments offered specifics on their budget re-

quests.

On the revenue side, the town is expecting less income from non-tax sources, conservatively reducing expected income from Dutchess County mortgage tax by \$50,000. Mortgage tax income is expected to drop because of inflation and rising mortgage rates discouraging new mortgages and a slowdown in refinancing of existing mortgages.

Income from building permits is also tentatively projected to decline in 2024.

Seeing increase within the Recreation Department

request is the maintenance account, doubled from the current year, seen as a more realistic amount at \$15,000 and small increases to fund the summer camp program, offer more youth programs and expand the summer concerts from six to eight.

The Highway Department is including design costs anticipating a project to construct a new town garage in Wassaic.

Town Supervisor Victoria Perotti emphasized that the tentative budget numbers will be reviewed and refined in the coming Town Board meetings

as part of the budget process, leading to an actual proposed budget to be presented to residents at a public hearing.

The annual public hearing on the proposed budget is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 2, at the Town Hall beginning at 7 p.m. At the hearing, the budgets will be discussed, along with approval of a local law to override the "tax cap" that establishes a limit on tax increases.

## Amenia Planning Board reviews plans for workforce housing

By LEILA HAWKEN  
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — Plans for workforce housing to be built on rear land across from the Town Hall were preliminarily reviewed at a regular meeting of the Amenia Planning Board on Wednesday, Oct. 11.

Plans for the parcel had been previously presented to the Housing Board in July and the Town Board in August, as the nonprofit developer, Hudson River Housing (HRH) of Poughkeepsie is gathering advice on how to proceed with a project.

Representing Hudson River Housing, the owner and developer of the more than 15-acre property, were Mary Linge, vice president of real estate development, and Javier Gomez, director of community development and impact.

The development would allow qualified homebuyers to purchase homes built in the form of duplexes that would house two working families each. There would be seven such duplexes housing a total of 14 families. A homeowners' association would oversee management of the duplex properties.

Also planned for the property would be a seven-unit apartment building that would be available for workforce renters. Each apartment would have one bedroom. HRH would manage these rental apartments.

Planning Board engineer John Andrews provided a preliminary list of detailed reports that would be essential for the Planning Board before the plans could be considered. The reports include a plan for sprinklers and fire hydrants, and emergency vehicle and general vehicular access. In addition, Andrews said that

multi-family apartment units are not allowed in the zone where the project is proposed and therefore, a special permit process would be required.

Looking at the zoning codes, Andrews told the Planning Board, "We are unclear about how they arrived at the planned density."

Because it could be a special permit situation, Andrews said, HRH would need to go before the Housing Board, and should also consult with the fire district and determine a water source.

Planning Board attorney Paul Van Cott pursued a thought, offered by Planning Board member Nina Peek, that HRH might approach the Town Board to request a zoning change for the parcel,

an action that could resolve the density issue.

If HRH were to approach the Town Board for a zone change, the next step would be for the Town Board to refer that application on to the Planning Board, Peek explained. A special use permit could amend the use of the land.

Neighboring property owners expressed concern that they had not been properly notified of the plans. Others asked for specifics on plans for wastewater, with one neighbor noting that the leach field abuts her property. Neighbors were also concerned about the likelihood of increased traffic and the difficulty of egress onto Route 22.



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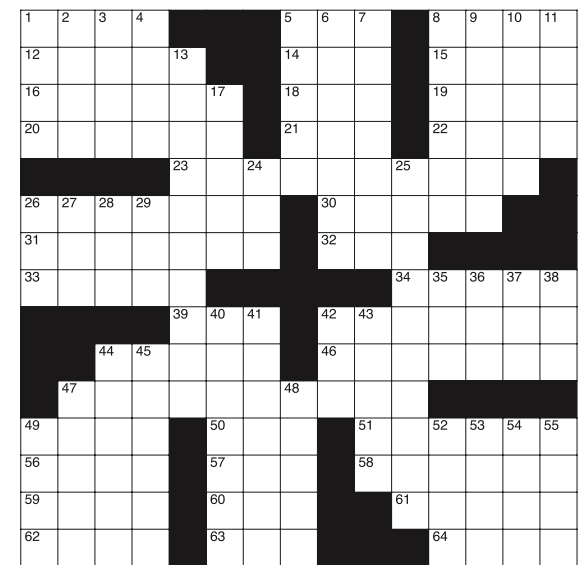
## Brain Teasers

### CLUES ACROSS

- A device to disengage without a key
- Subdivision
- Network of nerves
- Lounge chair
- Ocean
- C. European river
- Bowl-shaped cavity
- Caesar, comedian
- Lyric poems
- Tia's sister
- A way to develop
- Cows collectively
- Areas close by
- Slightly disreputable
- Made a mistake
- One who cites
- Food stall: \_\_ pai dong
- Narrow valley between hills
- Members of people living mainly in the Congo
- More (Spanish)
- Classroom implements
- Cognizant of
- One who tells on others
- Free from slavery
- Thick piece of something
- Containing two nitrogen atoms between carbon atoms
- Removed entirely
- Late rocker Turner
- Appreciated
- Observation expedition
- Opposite of subtracts
- Unit of work
- Wreckage on the sea bed
- Affirmative! (slang)
- Witness
- River in England

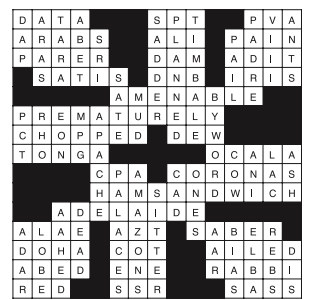
### CLUES DOWN

- A dissenting clique
- Japanese city
- Spiritual leader
- Second letter of Greek alphabet
- Musical term
- Ruled over
- Fortified wine
- First year player

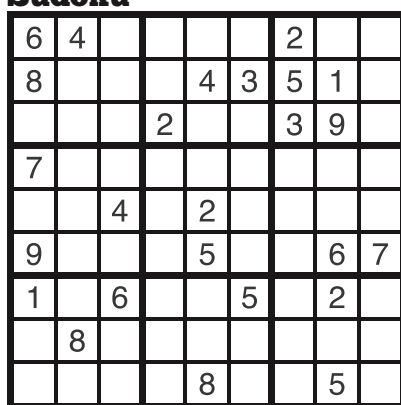


- Moved in a circular way
- Adolescents
- Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
- Someone who serves in the armed forces
- Bring up
- Factual written account (abbr.)
- Having three sides
- Annoy
- Hustle
- American WW2 leader
- Stale atmosphere
- US Treasury
- Sound unit
- They \_\_
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Places to play video games
- Medical event
- When you hope to arrive
- Fixed prices
- Popular Boston song
- Valley in Indiana and Illinois
- Omit when speaking
- German explorer of the Congo Basin
- Stick around
- From a distance
- Heroic tale
- Amounts of time
- Eat

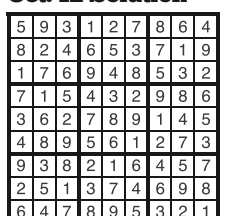
### Oct. 12 Solution



### Sudoku



### Oct. 12 Solution



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# NECC festival celebrates Hispanic heritage

By **ROBIN RORABACK**  
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — On Saturday, Oct. 14, at Eddie Collins Memorial Park, the North East Community Center (NECC) celebrated Hispanic Heritage month with its own Hispanic Heritage Festival.

Attendees could not resist dancing to the music of Latin jazz band Tres Gatos, who had come from New York City to play at the festival. NECC's executive director, Christine Sergeant, said "They are incredible! They get everyone moving!"

Besides dancing, people enjoyed fresh popcorn, tortilla chips and salsa. El Avocado Café of Amenia served empa-

nadas. Children were happy to find tres leches cake pops for dessert.

At the Hudson Valley Justice Center (HVJC) booth, attorney Ben Surface was "very happy to be here and spread the word about HVJC." HVJC offers free legal counsel and handles housing issues, immigration and family law regardless of immigration status.

Sun River Health of Amenia was there to offer advice on health issues. Edward Frederick, known to Sun River Health clients as Don Eduardo, said, "Sun River Health has been serving the Hispanic Community for 20 years. We welcome them when they are seeking a fam-

ily health care provider." It has Spanish-speaking staff are available.

The Worker Justice Center of New York's Jarim Virgen Rivera was available to talk about legal resources for workers who are discriminated against in the workplace, particularly agricultural workers. This was his second year at NECC's festival.

Heather Mathews of Sharon, Connecticut, was there with her bus full of books called The Roving Clover. Her mission is to "get books in kids' hands." She said children can browse through the donated books on her refurbished bus that is furnished with bookshelves and seating. "They can take as many

as they can carry," she said. Mathews has driven around the region this past summer and has given away thousands of books.

After dancing to the music, Evelyn Garzetta, executive director of Northeast Dutchess Immigrant Services in Millbrook said, "We collaborate every year with NECC." She added, "This is a great event and keeps getting better each year." She is also an NECC board member.

Chair of NECC's board and volunteer Irene Banning said the festival "represents partnerships with all the other organizations here today and that is how we do fabulous things. We deliver great programs and great joy."



PHOTO BY L. TOMAINO

From left: Chico Alvarez and Oscar Onuz of New York City-based Latin jazz band Tres Gatos performing at the North East Community Center's Hispanic Heritage Festival on Saturday, Oct. 14, in Millerton while Elvia Carolina Galicia, right, dances to their music.

## SHERIFF'S REPORT

The following information was provided by the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office as the Harlem Valley area activity report for Oct. 5-12.

Oct. 5 — Deputies responded to 5329 Route 44 in the Town of Amenia for a reported domestic dispute. Investigation revealed a boyfriend vs. girlfriend dispute. Matter resolved without further police intervention.

Oct. 6 — Deputies responded to 440 Ridge Road in the Town of Dover for granddaughter vs. grandmother domestic dispute. Matter resolved without further police intervention.

Oct. 8 — Deputies responded to 5523 Route 22 (Round Tuit) in the town of North East for a disturbance involving a boyfriend and girlfriend. Incident investigated without further police intervention.

ed to 5523 Route 22 (Round Tuit) in the town of North East for a disturbance involving a boyfriend and girlfriend. Incident investigated without further police intervention.

If you have any information relative to the aforementioned 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.

All persons 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.

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# Halloween fun at Festival of Frights

By **CAROL KNEELAND**  
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — Ghosts, goblins, superheroes, princesses and all manner of things that go bump in the night are welcome to join the Millerton Festival of Frights on Tuesday Oct. 31, from 5 to 7 p.m., at the Railroad Plaza, 16 Main St.

The free rain-or-shine

event, open to all ages, will feature the Haunted Schoolhouse and a Trunk or Treat, with Oblong Books gift cards awarded for best and most original costumes and trunks.

NorthEast-Millerton Library (NEML) director Rhiannon Leo-Jameson explained: "Trunk or Treat is when community members and organizations decorate their vehicles and give out treats for

Halloween. This allows those of us who don't live in an area that would normally have trick or treating to participate in the holiday and those with young children to go trick-or-treating without having to walk long distances."

Noting that there will be "a ton" of free goodies, she added, "The Millerton Fire Department will be joining in the festivities, bringing a truck and

firing up the grill to provide free hotdogs and candy."

Sponsored by Irondale Schoolhouse, Millerton Business Alliance, and the NEML, families have until Friday, Oct. 27, to register their vehicles at nemillertonlibrary.org or irondaleschoolhouse.org.

No other registration is necessary for what Leo-Jameson says will be "a ghoulish good time."

# Repair café mended, rejuvenated and fixed for the good of the environment

By **LEILA HAWKEN**  
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — No item was in too sorry a shape to be looked at, and many were just in need of a handyperson's skilled hands to put the item back into service.

Such was the community spirit that has led to another in a series of Repair Cafés organized by the Climate Smart Task Force and the Conservation Advisory Council (CAC), which was held at the Town Hall on Saturday, Oct. 14.

Seven stations were available to area residents, specializing in free minor fixes such as garment repairs, blade sharpening, restringing of stringed instruments, book-binding repairs, bicycle and small appliance repairs, and furniture repairs.

For those who could not attend this time, the event will happen again in April, around Earth Day, the organizers said.

"Every little bit helps," said Stacy Mantel, coordinator of the Climate Smart Task Force, which is working toward achieving Bronze status for the town in the statewide Climate Smart program. The Repair Café will earn points toward that goal.

"People are excited to learn about this event," said Christy Gast, secretary of the town's CAC. "We are happy to help our Amenia residents to remove items from the waste stream," Gast said, noting that

each repair event reduces the volume of materials going to the landfill.

Town Councilwoman Vicki Doyle noted that some participants are active CAC members from other towns where similar events are being considered.

Appliance and bicycle repairs were being offered by Rhett Rohback of Amenia, who operates a local fabri-

cation business, but he was happy to volunteer for the event. David Meharg, also of Amenia, was offering services in restringing acoustic musical instruments.

Small furniture repairs were offered by Russell Burchette of Pine Plains, and Victoria Herow of the Amenia Public Library was on hand to repair books. Busy with sewing tasks, Pam Hoilund

of Ancram had plenty to do, having built up a small but manageable backlog of mending things.

"It's growing," Gast said, estimating that the Repair Café had doubled in size since it was first offered in April.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

An expert in garment repair, volunteer repair coach Pam Hoilund of Ancram repairs a blouse seam for a resident, saving the blouse from being discarded. Hoilund was one of a number of local people who offered their skills to the Repair Café held at Amenia Town Hall on Saturday, Oct. 14, a program offered in conjunction with the local Conservation Advisory Council.

Do you have a family member or friend in the military who would be interested in the news from home?

### Remember

The Lakeville Journal Company offers free online subscriptions to our website, tricornernews.com, for active duty military personnel from the Tri-state region. For more information or to set up a subscription, contact Sandra Lang at circulation@lakevillejournal.com or 860-435-9873, ext. 301.

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## OBITUARIES

### Roger Aloysius Wolf

MILLERTON — Roger Aloysius Wolf, 71, a twenty-year resident of Millerton, New York, formerly of Mohegan Lake, New York, died peacefully on Monday, Oct. 9, 2023, at his home surrounded by his loving family.



Roger was a retired carpenter having worked for the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners Local 11 & Local 2682 based in Elmsford, New York.

Born Aug. 27, 1952, in White Plains, New York, he was the son of the late William and Anne (Cuzma) Wolf of Shrub Oak, New York. He was a graduate of Lakeland High School in Shrub Oak and a proud member of the "Oak-ers" crew. He was the loving and devoted companion to his high school sweetheart, Pamela W. Michaud for over twenty years. Pam survives at home in Millerton.

His beloved daughters, Emma and Chelsea, shared the following sentiments and reflections of her dear father:

"Dad was a very talented artist and an avid lover of nature, he had respect for all life forms that dwell within it. He was an adventurer, one of the best natural navigators you'd ever meet. Dad loved to take long rides in his car and go to random places that he always made feel so magical. He was an excellent cook and his 'secret' ingredient was lots of love and care. He had a wonderful sense of humor and loved to make others smile and laugh. He could be serious as well and could handle any issue that came his way, he was fearless. For most of his life he was a very talented

carpenter, he was also a loving companion, father, grandfather and uncle. He always gave 100% and so many people were fortunate to call him a friend. He had a big heart and he always made sure that you knew you were special. He was loved by so many, and he always spoke with kindness and wisdom and really enjoyed meaningful conversations. We are so proud to call him our father, he worked hard, and he turned whatever tasks he was doing into meaningful works of art. He will be missed deeply and loved forever. We love you Dad and you will always be in our hearts. Until we meet again..."

In addition to his companion, Pam, Roger is survived by two children, Emma Wolf and her wife Danay Smutek of Mohegan Lake, and Chelsea Wolf and her companion Michael Cahill of Highland, New York; Pam's children, Chris and Gregg Michaud; two grandchildren, Kieran and Ronan Cahill of Highland; two brothers, Stephen and Jamie Wolf, and a sister, Midge Haughey Wolf. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by a brother William "Billy" Wolf.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023, from 11 a.m. to noon at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Ave., Millerton, NY 12546. A funeral service will take place at noon. Pastor William Mayhew will officiate. To send an online condolence to the family, plant a tree in Roger's memory or to send flowers to the service, please visit [www.conklinfuneralhome.com](http://www.conklinfuneralhome.com).

### Kathleen L. Farrington

NORTH CANAAN — Kathleen L. Farrington, 70, of North Canaan, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023.

Kathie was born Aug. 24, 1953, to Richard and Gertrude Sullivan in Walpole, Massachusetts. After Kathie graduated from Walpole High School in 1971, she then married her husband, Wayne, and they went on to have two children, Jessica Simmons and Melissa Hajek.

Kathie retired from Geer Adult Day Center after many years of service and worked part-time caring for a wonderful woman in Canaan thereafter.

Kathie was cherished by so many people. She was a strong and caring wife to Wayne for 50 years. She was a beloved mom and best friend to daughters, Jessica and Melissa. She was a loving, loyal, and sarcastic sibling to her brothers, Scott Sullivan of Wrentham, Massachusetts, Brian Sullivan of Newark, Delaware, and her sister, Nancie McDonald (Keith) of Wrentham, Massachusetts. Her biggest role and the one she held most dear was being the best grandmother to Molly, Keegan and Haley Simmons, and to Julia Hajek. She was immensely proud of her grandchildren and her love will be carried with them forever.

Kathie had numerous things she was passionate about. She was an avid gardener and was most proud of her hydrangea bushes. She was an incredible scholar and prolific reader. She always had

an enormous history book by her side and loved nothing more than discussing history and current events with her friends and family. During the summer, Kathie always enjoyed the family pilgrimage to Cape Cod where she was in constant search of the "perfect clam chowder." A dog lover, Kathie cherished all her Labrador Retrievers through the years.

Kathie was a selfless human being who always put the needs of others before her own. She was patient, kind, loving and enormously dedicated to everyone she knew. She was a humanitarian who exhibited extreme empathy to all. She was funny and sarcastic and could light up a room with her presence.

Calling hours will be Saturday, Oct. 21, at 11 a.m. at Newkirk Palmer Funeral Home in North Canaan, CT. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Douglas Library, North Canaan, CT.

### Constance Lenore Felton Elias Rakity

WEST CORNWALL — With deep sorrow and love, we share the passing of our dear beloved mother, Constance Lenore Felton Elias Rakity who died peacefully at age 96 on Friday evening, Sept. 29, 2023, with her daughter Leslie and family in West Cornwall, where she had resided happily for the last few years of her life.



She leaves behind three devoted daughters, Janet, Viki and Leslie, three devoted sons-in-law, 8 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, a loving stepson, nieces, nephews, cousins, and many good friends who adored her and will never stop loving her!

Connie was born on Jan. 31, 1927, and grew up in Brooklyn, New York. She attended PS 197, James Madison High, Brooklyn College and The University of Wisconsin where she studied science. She received an MA in education at Adelphi University.

Connie was a one-of-a-kind woman, a wonderful human being full of curiosity, spirit, courage, love, laughter, poetry, song, dancing, rhythm and an ability to create playful joy wherever she was and whomever she was with. She was one of the kindest, sweetest, loveliest and most generous people in this world. She

fought for social justice from a young age, helped in the war effort during World War II, helped co-found and run a cooperative nursery school in Long Island, taught science to children and found her passion as a landscape and portrait photographer. At 86,

she made a courageous move to Israel known as Aliyah to be near her eldest daughter and family who span 4 generations. She lived an active life in Jerusalem, exhibiting her special photographs which demonstrated her innate affinity for nature and the world of the imagination.

She was a pioneer donor in the Sadna, a school co-created by her daughter Janet to serve special needs children and adults (where Connie's grandson Hanan now lives and flourishes). She was a great supporter of Technion University in Israel and The Southern Poverty Law Center in the United States.

At 91, she moved back to America and lived with both her daughters, Viki in New Hampshire and Leslie in West Cornwall.

Mom loved gardening, animals, children, puppets, poetry, playing the piano, dancing, quilting and making pottery. In her last years, she enjoyed playing her tam-

bourine tirelessly in time to her favorite musicians such as Harry Belafonte, Louis Armstrong, Nat King Cole, Pete Seeger, Bach, Brahms, Beethoven and all kinds of music. She made everyone smile as she was always ready to recite her favorite poem "The Owl and The Pussycat" by Edward Lear. She helped everyone around her, actively engaging in life, people and community. She was a dedicated supporter of Grumbling Gryphons Traveling Children's Theater, a nonprofit co-founded by her daughter, Leslie Elias.

The family would like to thank the wonderful caregivers who helped support her through her last few years and through the VNA and hospice. The love and kinship she engendered around her was truly remarkable. We all are humbled and grateful for the

time spent by her side.

Connie always wished for racial equality, tolerance and world peace. She created peace around her.

A celebration of her life with music will be held this winter in her home in Cornwall.

Donations in her name Constance Rakity can be made to Southern Poverty Law Center: [www.splcenter.org](http://www.splcenter.org) and to The Technion Fund [www.ats.org/giving/technion-fund/](http://www.ats.org/giving/technion-fund/) The Technion funds innovative solutions to humanity's most pressing challenges through scientific research and education. From advanced health and medicine to revolutionary technologies that enhance our quality of life to a more sustainable planet, join Technion's brightest minds in creating a better future for Israel and humanity.

For more obituaries, see page A5

### Benjamin Robert Moyer

WASSAIC — Benjamin (Ben) Robert Moyer, 65, of Wassaic, New York, passed away on Oct. 8, 2023, with his loving longtime girlfriend, Donna Boyles and adoring dog (Baby Girl), at his side. He was a devoted husband to the late Emma (Casey).



Ben was born Apr. 5, 1958, in Sharon, the son of the late Harry (Bob) and Gloria Moyer. Ben graduated from Webutuck in 1976. He was a career licensed mechanic and highly regarded in his trade. Most recently, he was employed at First Student School Bus Company as a mechanic.

Ben had a zest for life and the need for speed. Ben enjoyed riding his motorcycle, attending motorcycle rallies and car shows. When he did relax, he loved vacationing in Maine with his girlfriend.

He lived every moment to the fullest and was always there to help anyone in need. He had an amazing sense of humor

and never seemed to let life, as challenging as it was at times, get him down. Ben loved his dogs and always had a story to tell about them if you had the time to listen. A lifelong friend described him as "Gentle Ben" and that was truly who he was.

He is survived by his siblings; Brad (Shirley) Moyer, Tim (Kitty) Moyer, Carolyn (Bob) Mitchell, and numerous nieces and nephews, a great niece, and 3 great nephews. Ben is also survived by his biological daughter, Tracey Beahan. He is predeceased by his biological daughter, Kambi Rennia.

A graveside service will be held at the Amenia Union Cemetery, Leedsville Road, Amenia Union, NY on Oct. 28, at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Hudson Valley Animal Rescue, 15 Barnes Drive, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. The Kenny Funeral Home has care of the arrangements.

### Marie L. Dickinson

CANAAN — Marie L. Dickinson, wife of the late William L. Dickinson, died Friday, Oct. 13, 2023.

Marie is survived by her children; Vickie Dickinson Thompson and her husband Roger. Edward Dickinson and his wife Susan. Also a

granddaughter, Elisa Rotella. Services are private.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Kara Zinke Emergency Fund, P.O. Box 1209, Canaan, CT 06018.

Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home.

## Worship Services

Week of October 22, 2023

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

**Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon**  
9 South Main, Sharon CT  
Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M.  
Transitioning through prayer  
All welcome to join us  
860-364-5260  
[www.christchurchsharon.org](http://www.christchurchsharon.org)

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT  
Rev. Paul Christopherson  
SUNDAY SERVICE  
10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)  
In-Person and on You-Tube  
[www.stjohnssalisbury.org](http://www.stjohnssalisbury.org)  
860-435-9290

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

**The Lakeville United Methodist Church**  
519 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039  
9:00 a.m. Worship Service  
9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"  
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse  
860-435-9496  
[Lakevillemethodist@snet.net](mailto:Lakevillemethodist@snet.net)

**The Sharon United Methodist Church**  
112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green  
Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care  
No Sunday School in Summer  
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse  
860-364-5634  
[sharonumc5634@att.net](mailto:sharonumc5634@att.net)

**Falls Village Congregational Church**  
16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village  
10:00 a.m. Family Worship  
Coffee Hour  
A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!!  
860-824-0194

**The Smithfield Presbyterian Church**  
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**Canaan United Methodist Church**  
2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT  
11 a.m. Worship Service  
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Rev. Lee Gangaware  
860-824-5534  
[canaanct-umc.com](mailto:canaanct-umc.com)  
[canaanctumc@gmail.com](mailto:canaanctumc@gmail.com)  
We hope you will join us!

**The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall**  
Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9:00 a.m.  
Email Rev. Mary Gates at: [mngates125@gmail.com](mailto:mngates125@gmail.com)  
for an invitation to the Zoom service  
If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone.

**Congregation Beth David**  
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Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at [congbethdavid.org](http://congbethdavid.org))  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
Rabbi Jon Haddon  
845-373-8264  
[info@congbethdavid.org](mailto:info@congbethdavid.org)

**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](http://allsaintsofamerica.us)

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845-373-9161  
[www.stthomasamenia.com](http://www.stthomasamenia.com)  
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Livestream at 10:30 found at [www.trinitylimerock.org](http://www.trinitylimerock.org)  
Misa en español a las 4 de la tarde el último domingo de mes  
The Revs. Heidi Truax & Felix Rivera  
[trinity@trinitylimerock.org](mailto:trinity@trinitylimerock.org)  
(860) 435-2627

**Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT**  
The next meeting will be Sunday, November 12 at 10:30 a.m.  
For information, contact Jo Loi at [jokialoi@gmail.com](mailto:jokialoi@gmail.com)  
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Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary  
Sunday 11 a.m.,  
Immaculate Conception Church  
DAILY MASS SCHEDULE  
Wednesday 6pm  
St. Joseph Chapel or Church  
Thursday 8am  
Immaculate Conception Church  
Friday 8am  
Church of St. Mary  
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[sharoncongregationalchurch.org](http://sharoncongregationalchurch.org)  
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Contact us at 860-364-5002 or  
[info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org](mailto:info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org)

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# Salisbury adopts housing plan to tackle its 'existential crisis'

By MAUD DOYLE  
maudd@lakevillejournal.com

SALISBURY, Conn. — The Salisbury Affordable Housing Plan for 2023 was unanimously adopted by the Salisbury Town Board of Selectmen during a special meeting Thursday, Oct. 12.

The plan, assembled by the Salisbury Affordable Housing Committee, provides a roadmap for the construction of 100 new affordable housing units in the next 10 years.

There are over 100 qualifying households on the waitlist for Sarum Village, one of the existing affordable developments in town (57 housing units in town currently qualify as "affordable"). About 162 people in Salisbury live in poverty, according to CTDData.

Five years ago, the board adopted the 2018 Salisbury Affordable Housing Plan, which mapped out the construction of 75 new units by 2028. Since its adoption by the town, three new affordable units have been completed.

Meanwhile, the median sales price of a single-family home in the last year was \$912,500—the average price over the same period was \$1,282,236—or "affordable" to those with an annual income of roughly \$231,280. Salisbury's median income is \$72,658.

## An 'existential crisis'

In the last 20 years, Salisbury has seen an exodus of young adults and young families. The median age—now 52 in Salisbury—is about 10% higher than the figure in Litchfield County.

The median income, not adjusted for inflation, fell 13.6% between 2010 and 2019—the second largest drop in Connecticut in that period, after Mansfield—according to census data.

Affordable housing in Salisbury is now "an existential crisis" for the town, said Jim Dresser, who served as a town selectman for 12 years, and is now a member of both the Affordable Housing Commission and the Affordable Housing Committee.

The problem is not new; it has simply grown starker and more urgent. In 2000, in a series of meetings sponsored by the Salisbury Association, a forum of residents determined that the lack of affordable housing was the most pressing problem facing the town. They cited shortages of workers and professionals, particularly teachers and health care workers, seniors losing longtime homes, diminishing numbers of emergency services volunteers and health care workers, and an economically stagnant "downtown."

At the time, "there was already difficulty getting staff at Sharon Hospital. Difficulty finding plumbers and home health care workers and so on," said Dresser. "It just wasn't in everybody's face like it is today. Today, you go to LeBonne's at 5 in the afternoon, and it's 'closed early lack of staff.'"

A well-documented and increasingly perilous shortage of teachers, health care workers, non-medical caretakers and emergency service volunteers—not to mention cashiers and restaurant workers, plumbers and contractors, butchers and stockists—believes the less obvious decline in qualified municipal workers, journalists and writers, nonprofit professionals, small-business owners and

entrepreneurs, and managers at local banks and other businesses.

"There is a large segment of this community that is incrementally being forced out of our town," said Michael Klemens, chairman of the Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission. "Ultimately, a community that lacks a diversity of income levels, a diversity of people, of different socioeconomic levels, different abilities, different interests, is a community that becomes unhealthy and unsustainable."

Unless the trend is reversed, said Klemens, Salisbury cannot sustain "the community as we have known it."

## The problems

In order to support a diversity of people, said Klemens, we need a diversity of housing. That is what Salisbury does not have.

"We housing folks refer to a housing ladder, which I'm sure we've all been on—you start on the bottom rungs, maybe a studio apartment in college, then a one bedroom," said Dresser. "Eventually you might get to the point where you can buy a small starter house—that's the housing ladder. If the bottom rungs are missing, you can't get on it."

Of Salisbury's primary residences, 81% are detached, single-family homes, more than a third of which have four or more bedrooms. Two-bedroom units constitute 18% of the town's housing stock.

In part, it's a zoning problem, said Jocelyn Ayr, director of the Litchfield Center for Housing Opportunity.

"I work with all of the 16 communities in Litchfield County on affordable housing plans," said Ayr. In every case, she said, the only kind of home you can build "by right [...] is just a single-family home on 3 acres, basically." Anything else requires, at minimum, a special permit from the town, the notification of the abutters, and public hearings, she said.

Salisbury's housing crisis is further deepened by the town's unique peculiarities.

In Salisbury, just 36.4% of housing units are owner-occupied, compared to 64.5% in Litchfield County. Nearly half of the housing units in Salisbury are "second homes" or short-term rentals.

The topography of the area is also particularly poorly suited to building.

"There's a land shortage," said Klemens. "It may seem more that's ironical given how much land there is, but there's very little buildable land" that isn't being farmed, he said. Most of the land in the township is wetlands, floodplains, or steep, rocky slopes and mountains.

## The plan

If implemented in its entirety, the 2023 plan would create 100 new affordable housing units in the next 10 years, bringing the total number of housing units defined as "affordable" up to 157 by 2033.

In their discussion prior to adopting the 2023 plan, each of the three town selectmen emphasized that the plan does not have to be effected in its entirety.

"It's a plan, which is the key word," said Selectman Don Mayland. "As with all plans, some things may have to be changed."

"This is a guideline," agreed Selectman Christian Williams. "It will assist us in achieving our goals. It's not set in stone. It has to go through the other committees and boards of our town for approval on anything that gets done."

The Board of Selectmen also took up other issues that the plan touched on. First Selectman Curtis Rand raised the question of "homestead" legislation, which would offer some kind of tax relief to longtime Salisbury homeowners for whom the property tax burden has become too high to afford.

"[Property tax] is hollowing out of the middle class, it really is," said Williams. "It's making it unattainable to be in the middle class and living in this town. There's something we have to do about this. [...] Affordable housing is part of it but it's not all of it."

"Well, this is a problem, a serious problem," said Mayland. "And it warrants some serious thought to it."

## OBITUARIES

### Rita Easton

SHARON — Rita Easton, 90, passed away Oct. 4, 2023, at Sharon Health Care Center in Sharon.

Rita was born Rita Bernard on Sept. 8, 1933, to Henry and Victoria Bernard in Connecticut and grew up in New Britain.

Rita had a full life working as a model and actress and later as a writer. She moved to New York City to begin her modeling and actress career in her late teens. She became a weekender in South Kent in the 1980s, and later became a resident of Sharon.

She had a regular beat re-

porting about Arts and Antiques for the Newtown Bee. Rita loved music and the arts and played piano and sang. She enjoyed being part of the Kent Players Theater Group and truly loved her Connecticut home and friends.

She is survived by her son, David Easton, daughter-in-law Kathy Cole Easton of Maplewood, New Jersey, two grandchildren, Ezekiel and Isabelle, and cousins Robert Makoski and Marie Makoski.

A memorial service will be held in her honor in the Spring of 2024.

### Marsha Constance Soper

KINGSTON, N.Y. — Marsha Constance Soper, 77, passed away Oct. 1, 2023, at the Geer Village Skilled Nursing Facility in Canaan, Connecticut.

Marsha was born in Kingston, New York on May 19, 1946, daughter of the late Everitt M. Soper, Jr. and the late Constance (Dalo) Soper. Marsha was a longtime employee of the New York (Verizon) Telephone Company.

She is survived by a brother, Edward Soper (Helen) of Delray Beach, Florida, and a sister, Michelle Nerone, (Francis) of Lockport, New York. She was predeceased

by a sister, Marlena Buley, of Kingston, New York.

Marsha was a loving aunt to Michael (MaryBeth) Nerone and their children, Gavin and Griffin; James (Valarie) Nerone and their children Luke, Seth and Naomi; Scott (Divina) Buley and their son Dylan, and John Buley. Marsha was a devoted caregiver to her mother for many years, a good friend to many, and loved helping others.

A private gathering to celebrate Marsha's life will be held later this year at St. Mary's Cemetery, Kingston, NY.



For more obituaries, see page A4

# Sharon holds hearing on solar plans

By LEILA HAWKEN  
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

SHARON, Conn. — Plans to install a solar array at Sharon Center School (SCS) were summarized by the developer and discussed by residents who attended a public hearing at the regular meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) on Wednesday, Oct. 11, at the Town Hall.

Representing the developer, Verogy of West Hartford, in conjunction with the Connecticut Green Bank, was Brad Parsons, Verogy's director of design and permitting.

Parsons reviewed the details of the project that would build a ground-mounted solar panel array on town-owned land adjacent to SCS.

When operational, the installation would offset the power utility costs for the school by using solar power, Parsons said.

The site proposal recognizes that the 2.5-acre rear lot at the school was once used for a nature walk, a resource for education and recreation. To conserve that use, Verogy met with school personnel and devised a way to incor-

porate the solar panels into the site and preserve some of the existing nature trail.

According to the Verogy plan drawings, the solar panels, 10 feet in height, would be installed within a square of land measuring 182 feet by 205 feet, surrounded by a chain link fence.

Parsons noted that the plan would see the removal of 12 trees on the site, leaving the stumps in place. Three young evergreen trees would be planted to act as a visual buffer for neighbors.

The public comment portion of the hearing was initiated by Doug Rick of the Sharon Energy and Environment Commission (SEEC), who spoke of the value of renewable energy, noting that more than 300 public and private schools in the state have installed solar panels, and he noted the potential energy cost savings to the town.

Abutting property owner David Levinson felt that neighbors had not been properly notified of the plans as they were developed.

"As a town, it is important for us to have a vibrant, successful school. There are larger issues at hand than sav-



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Residents gathered on Oct. 11 at the Sharon Planning and Zoning hearing to discuss concerns regarding the new solar array project at Sharon Center School.

ing money," Levinson said, although he acknowledged that the SEEC's intentions are good.

Resident Patee Hecht said that she fully supports the installation of the solar array,

but she said that the plans did not recognize the existence of the onsite nature preserve. She said that the 12 trees that are slated for removal had been planted to provide habitat. She called for the planners

to replace the 12 trees.

Neighboring property owner Carolyn Mattoon, who serves as SEEC chairman, said that in 16 years, she had never seen a single person walking in the nature preserve.

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OUR TOWNS

# Mayor to seek Franklin Ave. speed reduction from DOT

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — As the meeting of the Village of Millbrook Board of Trustees got under way on Wednesday, Oct. 11, a resolution was passed to allow Mayor Tim Collopy to request that the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) lower the speed limit on Franklin Avenue to 25 miles per hour, specifically, from Most Physical Therapy to Cardinal Hays School.

Franklin Avenue is a state road and any changes must come from DOT. This request

has been made before and been rejected by DOT.

Karen McLaughlin, senior account clerk, gave a report on the financial condition of the village, adding that, last year, the theme was stability; this year, it is safety and liquidity. Property tax remained under the 2% state tax cap, at \$4.85 per \$1,000 assessed value, up \$0.07 from last year.

Trustee Peter Doro gave an update on the work being done on the short-term rental (STR) project. Instead of a lottery system, it would be first come, first served, and there would be a wait list. The maximum number

of STRs allowed would be 15 instead of 20, with a two-year fee of \$1,000. The number of renters would be eight rather than six and there would be no limit on annual maximum days of rentals.

The restriction to only one rental per week would be lifted. The requirement for resident-on-premises-only would have an extended grace period from six months to two years. A two-hour time limit to respond to problems would be lowered to a one-hour response time, and the provision against two adjacent properties allowed to be STRs would be removed.

Some discussion ensued

with audience members, but this was not up for a vote and will be discussed further. A new resolution, and a new public hearing, are all in the future.

Trustee Mike Herzog said that the village is waiting on permits from DOT to begin replacing the designated sidewalks on Franklin Avenue. Some preliminary work may be done, such as the removal of trees. Then the actual work on the sidewalks themselves will depend on when the permit is obtained as well as the weather. The replacement trees will be ordered over the winter, to be ready for spring planting.



PHOTO BY DEBORAH MAIER

Michael Lavin Flower with "Victoria," far left, a nebulous portrait of his stepdaughter as a young child, in his exhibition at Millerton's Mad Rose Gallery on Friday, Oct. 13.

## Enigmatic photographs at Mad Rose Gallery

By DEBORAH MAIER  
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — In Mad Rose Gallery's spacious main room, Michael Lavin Flower's mostly black-and-white photographs trace one man's curiosity about nature and the built world as well as the very processes that transform simple recording of them into individual pieces of art.

The Saturday, Oct. 7, opening of the show, Flower said, drew about 80 attendees; it runs through Sunday, Oct. 29.

Flower, long a commercial photographer and more recently an educator of elementary schoolchildren, explained the crossover and his many aesthetic choices in an artist statement: "Teaching has consistently reminded me," he wrote, "that there is always a new concept of image waiting to be explored."

The process of exploring, then manipulating images is basic to his entire oeuvre. The initial attraction is what he termed in a personal interview "ambiance—wind blowing, clouds floating, a

shoreline in the distance referenced by the nearby sand dune, a reflection in a piece of glass. It's all so subjective," he pointed out. Any two people could be looking at the same thing but seeing it differently.

The constructed images—many of the ones present in the current show—represent for Flower a reinvention of space, where "a small piece of music gets to be more orchestrated."

In the large-scale "Eliza's Gift," a layering of images on glass or plexiglass, overlays and partially reveals the hand and foot of a child seated on an asphalt walkway, working on a chalk drawing. Flower built the sturdy support for the camera and placed it in situ as his stepdaughter drew.

With titles like "Social Distancing Markers Under Ice," "Untitled (cherub)," and "Basso Profundo," the mostly abstract chiaroscuro images in Flower's "Lucid Dreaming" series deliver less, or more, or other than what they suggest.

Of note for the future, Flower is planning a Millerton mural in his own idiom.

# Town sets hospitality overlay hearing for Nov. 9, STR vote eyed for December

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The resignation of Mary Alex as Town of Washington clerk after 30 years of service was expected, but knowing her final day would be Friday, Oct. 20, brought with the announcement an air of finality, and was still a shock to some at the Washington Town Board meeting on Thursday, Oct. 12.

Everyone wished Alex, who was not present, a happy retirement, as she and her husband will be moving out of the area, and Councilwoman Leslie Heaney exhibited a plaque in Alex's honor, commemorating her 30 years of service, which will be hung

outside the town clerk's office.

The first item expected to be discussed at the meeting had to do with the hospitality overlay, which was reintroduced by Councilman Joe Rochfort; there will be another public hearing regarding the matter on Thursday, Nov. 9, at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

One item brought up at this time was the fact that the former Day Top property actually has two addresses, one on College Lane and one on Ramble Hill. They are one and the same property, it can be approached using either road.

The board reiterated the fact that the three sites for the hospitality overlay came directly from the public via surveys, meetings, open houses

and public discussions with the use of a consulting group at a cost of money, time and effort.

Heaney also reminded that any plan would still have to go through the Planning Board for approval, so just being in the overlay district doesn't guarantee that a project will be allowed.

Danielle Szalewicz, recreation director, had an overall positive view of the recreation department's activities over the summer, and mentioned that one of the trips for older adults found nine people canceling at the last moment at a great cost to the department, as the older adults don't pay for the trips. She noted that in future, there will be a \$10 charge per trip.

Szalewicz also talked about plans for Halloween; a costume contest, a parade, and Trunk or Treating in Washington Park on Saturday, Oct. 28. Plans are also underway for how the department will celebrate Christmas, including the usual Gingerbread House event, but there will be a tree decorating event this year, as well.

Councilman Mike Murphy reintroduced the plan for short-term rental (STR) agenda items; the STR committee has made some changes, such as allowing only one permit per person instead of two. He said they would be ready to bring the draft to the November meeting and hopefully would be ready to vote on it in December.

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Recently we had a positive test for coliform bacteria in well water for a house that was being inspected. Coliform is relatively common in wells and it is recommended to have your well water tested yearly. For more info on coliform, here is a great primer: [portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/dph/environmental\\_health/pdf/04BacteriainPrivateDrinkingWaterWells0409.pdf](http://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/dph/environmental_health/pdf/04BacteriainPrivateDrinkingWaterWells0409.pdf). The next issue is what action to take if coliform is present in the water. The simplest step is to shock the well with chlorine. This will clear up the water but is not long term. A UV filter for example is long term, but will require yearly replacement of the filter. For more info on what type of water treatment system is best for your needs, please see this CT DPH's publication: [portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/dph/environmental\\_health/private\\_wells/Publications/19QuestionstoAskwhenPurchasingJune2016.pdf](http://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/dph/environmental_health/private_wells/Publications/19QuestionstoAskwhenPurchasingJune2016.pdf)

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**Mary Rasenberger**  
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OUR TOWNS

# Volunteer Fair highlights local opportunities

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Rain did not dampen the enthusiasm shown at the Millbrook Library on Saturday, Oct. 14, as patrons visited the many exhibits set up in the lobby and gallery at the second annual Volunteer Fair.

Library director Courtney Tsalalis and her staff were pleased with the turnout, which began at 11 a.m. and ended at 1:30 p.m. The event was designed to help those who are interested in volunteering meet some of the people and the organizations that need their help in areas including animal care, local ecology, food banks, immigration services and literacy.

A huge red fire truck welcomed visitors, and personnel of the Millbrook Fire Department (MFD) and the Rescue Squad greeted them, and they explained what their work entails, showing some of the equipment they use in their lifesaving work. MFD Vice President Kara Granger was there, with, among others, Beattie Hays, MFD's education officer.

The Millbrook Rotary Club exhibit was situated near the Community Fridge in the library lobby, reminding all



PHOTOS BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

**In attendance at the Millbrook Library's Volunteer Fair on Saturday, Oct. 14, was the St. Thomas Episcopal Church Food of Life/Comida de Vida Pantry with, from left, Helen Haye, Barbara Birnbaum, John Sheedy and Maire Sheedy, 13. So far this year, the pantry has given out 115,902 meals.**

that the club had been instrumental in getting that up and running. Rotary member Stacey Langenthal ran the table.

The Dutchess Land Conservancy was situated on the library porch, and Julie Hart, at the table, said it is actively seeking volunteers in trail development, preservation and maintenance. It also seeks those who can educate, lead, and are interested in outreach. Photography and videography skills are always needed,

as are those who are willing to collect data, and work in administration.

North East Dutchess Immigrant Services had fliers that told what its greatest needs are. It is looking for Hispanic culture foods and essential foods; Maseca flour, vegetable oil, white rice, dry black peas, plain oatmeal, corn tortillas, canned corn (no other vegetables, please) and the seasonings cilantro, cumin, paprika.



**Northeast Dutchess Immigrant Services was represented by program director Mark Clizbe, left, and operations coordinator Ben York.**

Also needed are razors, toothbrushes and paste, shampoo, body wash, dish and laundry detergent, toilet paper, and lightly used or new winter clothing, especially for children ages 4-10. The drop-off location is Grace Church, 3330 Franklin Ave. Mark Clizbe, program director, and Ben York, operations coordinator, manned the booth.

Compassionate Animal Rescue Efforts of Dutchess County attended with three volunteers as well as three kittens and three puppies. The organization is available

for adoptions, animal rescue and wildlife rehabilitation. Located in Wappingers Falls, it is a nonprofit pet adoption agency that provides temporary shelter and medical care for stray and abandoned animals in the Poughkeepsie area.

Hope Rising Farm provides equine-assisted services to all at its therapeutic riding center, a 501(c)(3), for adults and children of all abilities located in Amenia. Sheila Rabideau provided the information.

Angels of Light is looking for gifts for children, sippy cups, coloring books, cray-

ons, pacifiers, pajamas and sketchbooks, for newborns to youth age 18, said director Lori Decker. It gives gift bags to children in six local hospitals. Donations and volunteers are always welcome at Angels of Light, whose base is at 28 Front St.

Friends of the Millbrook Library Sharon Mahar and Joan Burgess were looking for volunteers in helping them serve others in hospitality, events, public relations and fundraising. Helping the community in various ways, including pool and museum passes, candy and book giveaways, adult literacy programs, and voter registration, it has given the Millbrook Library a front-entrance renovation, chairs, paintings, a sound system and projector remote to aid in its many programs.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church Food of Life/Comida de Vida Pantry serves eastern Dutchess County and northwest Litchfield County in Connecticut. Gifts large and small from individuals, both in money and in-kind, are hugely important foundation for the pantry's operations. Helen Hale, Christine Birnbaum, John Sheedy and Maire Sheedy handed out information.

Literacy Connections of the Hudson Valley Inc. helps adults and families to become functionally literate. The exhibit was handled by Barbara June, who said it helps with basic reading, English as a Second Language, and also volunteer by reading aloud, working with individual students in math and reading, and creating positive experiences between children and books.

## County's new Transition Center set to open later this year

By COLLEEN FLYNN  
Special to The Millerton News

POUGHKEEPSIE — A new Dutchess County Justice and Transition Center (DCJTC) is under construction, serving as a rehabilitation center for incarcerated individuals.

Dutchess County Sheriff Kirk Imperati said that the "new facility enhances the safety and dignity of both those who are incarcerated and our correctional team who work here. It is the result of the hard work of many people coming together to address long-standing problems."

The center will be able to look at the root cause of crime in the Hudson Valley,

and hopefully prevent future criminal relapses. The facility is \$20 million under budget and is expected to open later this year.

The building encompasses 161,987 square feet of space, with many different features inside. The facility will have an infirmary, classrooms, programming areas, kitchens, laundry rooms, improved staff areas, and natural light.

This design was strategically planned out in order to minimize risk and reduce the number of required officers in the building.

DCJTC has been researched and assessed since 2012, when the Dutchess County Jail reached capacity almost every day. The jail's capacity was limited to 250, and

the county was housing 550.

Housing out all of the county's incarcerated people would cost taxpayers \$8 million annually. This option also did not consider the well-being of those who were incarcerated.

In 2016 the Town of Poughkeepsie approved the \$192.2 million budget for the DCJTC design and construction. The enhanced safety and security features and a more valued workplace for the county's Corrections team helped with the budget. The staff and changes being done for the new facility will lower the annual operation costs compared to the old facility.

The facility will include immersive rehabilitation and community reintegration,

mental health and substance abuse disorder services, education and workforce development training.

There will also be other programming services such as parenting skills, Bible study, volunteer opportunities, and more.

Dutchess County Legislature Chairman Gregg Pulver said, "With the construction of the new Justice and Transition Center, we have been able to create a facility that will be a criminal justice model and help people get their lives back on track."

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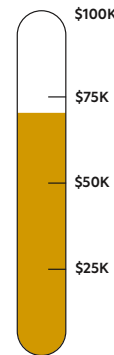
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**TOWN BOARD** *Continued from Page A1*

the North East Community Center (NECC) and the town Zoning Review Committee to determine definitions of affordable housing and appropriate income levels, as well as a study of area median income tools.

Winkler mentioned a discussion that took place during a Salisbury Forum presentation on Sept. 22 about using land holdings of area land trusts that are “not acceptable for conservation” to build affordable housing and that the committee will be “following up” on the idea. The Village of Millerton is one of the places in Dutchess County identified by Hudson Valley Affordable Housing Conservation and Strategy as being able to benefit from that possibility.

The preliminary budget for 2024 has been presented to Town Clerk Elizabeth “Tilly” Strauss. “This is the single most significant act of town government,” said Town Supervisor Chris Kennan.

Kennan noted that the preliminary budget includes increases in earnings revenues; an 11% estimated increase in insurance costs; a slight increase in accountant fees; a 2% increase in the ambulance contract; and increased cost for town attorney, mostly due to work on the wastewater district.



PHOTOS BY CHRISTINE BATES

**The Town of North East’s new six-bay highway garage and offices with interior to be completed on Route 22. Behind is another four-bay building and salt shed.**

Expense lines were added for the renovations and contractual expenses for the new Town Hall. A 7% increase in health insurance costs is expected, as is a 4% increase in salaries and wages, and an increase in interest on the town’s bond anticipation notes.

A public hearing on the preliminary budget has been set to take place during the board’s next meeting on Thursday, Nov. 9, at 7:20 p.m. at Town Hall. The budget is available for viewing by the public in the town clerk’s office.

The town’s five-year contract with Northern Dutchess Paramedics—which it entered into along with the towns of Dover and Amenia—will expire at the end of 2024. Yearly

increases have been around 2% and the town is considering putting the contract out to bid. “It’s such a significant cost item for the town that we need to be thinking about every way that we can to control that cost,” said Kennan.

**CANDIDATES** *Continued from Page A1*

the Common Ground line. He has been involved with the Wastewater Committee and the Recreation Commission for several years.

Hamm is a retired teacher, a Democrat who knows Amenia well, having taught a great many of its current citizens at the Webutuck Central School District; in fact, she is a 1969 graduate of Webutuck High

refreshments were served. Following the presentations, the audience was invited to make comments and ask questions.

Meeks extended welcome to all, including several local officials who attended. He said, following the meeting, “I was very pleased with the turnout at our annual meeting. There were a lot of very good questions on the expansion of the trail, and the benefits to our local communities.”

A few questions centered on the impact the trail would have on its nearest neighbors, and its accessibility. Members of the Rail Trail Association were also on the agenda, and were able to address many of the questions as the group oversees the maintenance of the existing trail and the ex-

pansion as it takes place.

One of the items talked about was the fact that the new section will be paved, and will reach well into central and northern Columbia County. When finished, the trail will lead hikers into the Village of Chatham, not too far from where the Shaker Museum is expected to be built.

Ghent Town Supervisor Craig Simmons and Village of Chatham Mayor John Howe were among the attendees, as was Ghent Councilman Dan Barufaldi. Howe remarked that Chatham is beginning a multimillion-dollar water project, roughly in the area of the rail trail expansion. Such is his belief in the trail: He hopes to get the water project moving ahead of the expansion so that, once completed, there

will be no need to disturb the trail when the expansion has begun.

What the residents do want to hear is that there will be ample parking for the cars of the hikers, that the trail will be well maintained, and that all rules will be enforced, such as not cutting or removing vegetation, no unleashed pets, no feeding wildlife, no camping or fires, and quiet when near local residences.

A grant in 2023 allowed for the final design and engineering plans for the expansion; however, it is not yet funded. Grants and donations are being sought, and completion will depend on when the funds can be acquired; however, the project is now “shovel-ready” as soon as the funds are in hand.

**WORK-BASED** *Continued from Page A1*

Education (CTE) branch, with a curriculum starting in first grade dedicated to “...implementing powerful lessons that will connect the academic world with the “real world,” according to its mission statement. Students who complete Webutuck’s program receive the CDOS, or career readiness, certification.

As explained on Webutuck’s website, the main components of WBL include “both paid and non-paid work experiences. Students work during school or after school, or during the summer. Additional opportunities,” it continues, include “job shadowing, mentoring, guest speakers, and company tours. All WBL programs include classroom instruction aligned to CDOS standards. Students create resumes, portfolios, practice interview skills and soft job skills.” An additional page lists the many benefits to employers flowing from WBL.

The “soft skills” are those most requested by employers, Knuschke pointed out. Knowing how to dress for a job, how to communicate both generally and in cases of challenges, habits of punctuality and self-presentation are all valuable skills that are inculcated in the program.

In WBL coordinator and special education teacher Jonathan Scarinzi’s first-period Career Explorations class of ninth- through 12th-graders, students presented their research and learning by relating scenarios they had been given in a previous class. “You are a woman working along-

side men, and you discover you are being paid less” was one example that required stipulating which state rules and regulations cover such situations. They discussed how the number of hours and times of day a student can work during the school year varies by age and how laws are increasingly stringent for students under 16, among other topics.

In-class viewing of a video on “OSHA Nightmares” depicting hazardous situations in the field elicited groans of excitement and led to a reminder that employers can be fined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which protects workers who report dangerous conditions.

In Scarinzi’s second-period Workplace Learning class of 12 students with IEPs (Individualized Education Plans), young workers filled out reports on their jobs and consulted with their teacher. Zuleika, a junior in her third year of Workplace Learning, related how a first job in retail in Amenia, mostly back-of-store duties tagging merchandise, segued into assisting in Maplebrook School’s art room with student peers and now to assisting the elementary and middle-school art teachers at Webutuck. Her new goal is to study art after

graduation.

Senior Dominyck Perez’s path is another one that illustrates the concept of exposing students to various professions to enhance their choice-making. Perez initially wanted to follow his father into the construction trade, but having been encouraged to try a stint in WHS’ kitchen led to a season working in “fancy prep” at Troutbeck and a decision that culinary arts, with possible training at the famed Culinary Institute of America, is a passion he wants to pursue.

Currently, Perez is apprenticed to owner Lucy Abad and manager Lori Holah at Richie’s Deli in Amenia. “We’ve had many students from the program over the last five or six years, and we’re always glad to have them,” said Abad, who added, “and Dominyck caught on very quickly.”

He works the morning rush on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. “It’s hard to get the hang of things quickly,” Perez said, but his confidence is growing. Timing, marking the orders properly, and coordinating with the busy team are all challenges. “I like everything about it,” he said, noting that being physically active during the school day is very welcomed and makes him appreciate both ways of learning more.

School.

The seat of town supervisor, a two-year term, is also open, and there are two candidates for the position, one being current Town Supervisor Victoria Perotti, a Republican/Independent who began her career with the board in 2004 as a member, and was re-elected in 2009. She served as deputy supervisor from 2010 to 2013, and was elected town supervisor in 2013, a position she has held ever since.

Democrat Leo Blackman has served on the board since 2022. He was active in town affairs prior to becoming a board member, serving on the Amenia Enhancement Committee, the Planning Board, the Zoning Board, the Housing Board and the Wastewater Committee.

Moderator Jolanda Jensen received questions for the candidates from the audience via Kevin Gardiner, and the responses were timed by Sheba Abraham. All three are members of the League of Women Voters Mid-Hudson Region.

Questions were divided into those for the candidates for supervisor into for candidates for board member. Some of the questions were the same for both, including one about being for or against term limits. Answers varied: Hamm noted that if people felt someone was in one position for too long, they should step up, say something or run themselves. She doesn’t believe in term limits, but does think more people need to step up and be involved.

Doyle believes the most important factor is not throwing someone out arbitrarily if someone is doing a good job and the voters make that decision when they vote. Blackman was largely noncommittal on this. Winters said yes, but added that he thinks the

supervisor’s post should be more than two years, and he wasn’t in favor of very short terms, with board terms for four to 20 years and supervisor maybe eight to 12 years.

Blackman has said one of the reasons he is running is to bring more transparency to the office. Out of 15 questions asked of the supervisory candidates, five of them dealt with the issue of transparency. There were also 15 questions asked of board member candidates, and two of those wanted more transparency.

When the candidates were asked why they were running, their answers were similar in some cases, with slight variations. Blackman noted the need for transparency; he’d like other meetings, such as that of the Planning Board, televised. He’d like more respect paid to the volunteers on boards and committees who give so much of their time to the town and stated the position of supervisor is a full-time position. Blackman is a retired architect.

Perotti would like to finish some of the projects she has started, and she noted that things don’t happen overnight. She also noted that in many instances, there are no shortcuts; the correct avenues have to be followed. Perotti mentioned the need to build relationships and contacts, that people have to work together to get the work done.

The candidates for the board also had definite ideas about the requirements. Hamm would like to see better communications, with more televised meetings and better use of media, a digital

sign in front of Town Hall and maybe emailing agendas for Planning Board and other meetings.

She’d also like to see more services provided, making sure that those moving into the town are being reached out to. She added that she was not going to make great assurances because one never knows what might happen, but would work hard and honestly to do her best to build a community where everyone helps each other.

Doyle also wants to complete unfinished business; she too noted that many projects take hard work and a long time to get off the ground. She mentioned in particular the free electric-vehicle charging station for residents, for which she advocated. She mentioned her expertise as a fundraiser, something she loves doing and finds invaluable when searching for grant money and funding. She also noted that Amenia has moved forward with climate resiliency: “We are in the process of obtaining grants through the CAC and the task force and hope to complete an energy audit of Town Hall before the end of the year.”

Winters said he’d only been involved in politics for about two years, becoming involved because of the amount of animosity he felt when looking into situations concerning the wastewater and drinking water projects, and the amount of money being spent. He feels that plans for the future of the town are stuck and new ideas are needed, along with proper bylaws and lots of change.



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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

FASHION: ALEXANDER WILBURN

## Renew, Reuse, Ready-to-Wear

Trash is back on the catwalk in the best possible way. Returning after the success of its 2019 debut, The American Mural Project in Winsted, Conn., will host the one-of-kind live Recycled Runway competition on Saturday, Oct. 21. In this TV-show-like challenge, designers must turn one man's garbage into an editorial-ready garment. From scrapped film negatives to discarded luggage, nothing is off the table (or the sewing bench), as long as the ready-to-wear look is 75% recycled material.

It's a concept that has only become more relevant since the last Recycled Runway, as consumers are developing an increased awareness of the harm

the fast fashion industry (mass-produced, low-cost retailers that often use plastic fibers) has inflicted on the planet. The UN has named fast fashion responsible for 10% of global carbon emission.

American Mural Project Executive Director Amy Wynn pointed to several Recycled Runway designers working towards a future of more sustainable apparel.

One of the contestants, Diana Cesaro, an Avon, Conn., based designer, sells her sustainable clothing through an online business on Etsy, a popular e-commerce platform that often specializes in handcrafted and vintage items. "When Diana was invited, she said, 'This is going to be great be-

cause I'm all about really making people aware of this awful element of waste in the apparel industry," Wynn said. "She said each pound of waste from apparel production is associated with two pounds of carbon dioxide. In the fashion industry, yearly, as much as 92 million tons of clothing end up in landfills."

Each of the contestants in Recycled Runway is also competing on behalf of a charity of their choice, with votes for their designs made through donations. Cesaro's charity is FABSCRAP, a non-profit organization based in Brooklyn, N.Y. "It was created to meet New York City's commercial textile and recycling needs," said Wynn. "Materials that traditionally would have gone into the landfill are now being correctly recycled and made available for reuse."

Wynn pointed to another contestant, Songlan Wu, a graduate of Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and a technical designer and the New York City-based fashion house Sachin & Babi, as another artist stitching eco-consciousness into

her work, combating waste through what Wu calls "slow fashion." "Songlan Wu's upcycling materials by using leftover yarns and discussing intentionality when it comes to material in her work. It's handcrafted, slowed down fashion concepts, using methods like hand-sewing and beading and embroidery and knitting and hand-dyeing so that you can use even less electrical energy. She's making it by hand, she's not using production elements. She's also talked about planning carefully so that you incorporate leftovers into your designs, and in doing so, you also have less waste."

For tickets to Recycled Runway go to [www.americanmuralproject.org](http://www.americanmuralproject.org). Doors open at 6 p.m.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SONGLAN WU



Designs by Recycled Runway competitor Songlan Wu

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ART: NATALIA ZUCKERMAN

# The Serious Make-Believe of Artist Danielle Klebes

On the penultimate floor of Maxon Mills in the Wassaic Project's 2023 summer exhibition, "Counting the Seconds Between Lightning and Thunder," several life-sized, 3D portraits on wooden cutouts stood like ushers, guiding the viewer to climb the last staircase and enter the final installation: Danielle Klebes' "7th Floor Walk-up."

A collection of over 100 paintings made

up the contents of this space, an interior blending reality with imagination. From the red plastic Solo cups on the mantle to the taxidermy on the walls, from the books on the bookshelf to the magazines on the coffee table to the floor itself, everything in the space was a painting, creating a liminal space between reality and fantasy.

Klebes was born in Rochester, N.Y., but moved for the first of many times just two

weeks later. Her mother, an artist as well, lived her life following her muse, which meant that Klebes and her sister followed along with her.

This itinerant childhood left Klebes with brief stints in "all of New England," Florida, and even some time in Japan. Now rooted more than she's ever been in Wassaic, a hamlet in Amenia, N.Y., Klebes is investigating place and what it means to be in a community.

In 2020, she applied to The Wassaic Project's exhibition and residency program. "It's pretty famous in the art residency world," said Klebes, "and I'd been doing residencies for about three years, so I was dying to get to Wassaic."

The residency and the exhibition were both canceled due to the pandemic. A fellowship opportunity opened instead, which Klebes applied for and received. She was a fellow for about five months and then was hired as the full-time programming coordinator. "This is like my dream job, so I'm so excited."

This is also the longest she's ever been anywhere. Standing relatively still, Klebes now gets to observe as other artists come and go, inspired and ignited



SELF-PORTRAIT PHOTO BY DANIELLE KLEBES

**Painter Danielle Klebes next exhibition will open at Jennifer Terzain Gallery in Litchfield, Conn., on Saturday, Oct. 29**

by an ever-changing cast of characters. She said: "I love the community aspect of being in a residency. It keeps me pushing myself. If I'm alone in my studio, it's too easy to let yourself off the hook. It's really important to be around people that inspire you."

Klebes knew she loved painting from a very early age. She took a painting class as a child at the Currier Gallery (now Currier Museum) in New Hampshire. "I wasn't interested in make-believe. I was very serious."

It is this kind of serious make-believe that is at the center of Klebes' work. Her upcoming solo show, "NOWHERE," at the Jennifer Terzian Gallery in Litchfield, Conn., opening Sunday, Oct. 29, will showcase interiors transporting viewers into a world where reality and imagination coexist.

The beauty of everyday life is in a conversation with the intricate details that often go unnoticed in what Klebes calls a sort of "eye spy" approach to painting. "I'm having fun doing

multiples," she said, "where the same things appear...find this car, find this calendar..."

In the few weeks leading up to the show, Klebes is interested in painting real spaces and the made-up ones of her imagination. She explained, "It's the accidental things that make you realize it's a real space." She continued: "I did this painting of my brother and sister, and my brother was wearing these weird black socks, and you realize these would never be there unless they were really there because they're just so strange. Those moments only happen in real life. By inventing, it cleans it up too much somehow. So in my last month before the show, I want to paint real spaces."

Sharing a home with her girlfriend, former Wassaic print fellow McKinzie Trotta, and working at The Wassaic Project has provided Klebes a new stability and space to explore. It has also provided ample storage space for her paintings—her mother's ever-changing abode required a recent relocation of her artworks from her basement.

The question of what makes a space "real" now pervades her artistry. With incredible attention to detail, she dissects the essence of presence, the tangible evidence of existence, and the struggle to portray "now HERE" instead of, perhaps, "nowhere."

"There's something about queerness in a small town," she explained, "I feel much more like I want to shout it from the rooftops."

Now reunited with some of her older work, she's curious about the characters and what role they will play, the role that a chosen family plays in one's life.

Klebes mused, "I am still trying to find the balance of reflecting my life in my work," and continued, "I love painting. Period. I'm curious. I like people. It's what always comes back."

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**Fall Festival Thank You**

Thanks to all the organizations, churches, schools, and businesses who contributed to making the 66th Salisbury Fall Festival a success in spite of the weather! Everyone rallied to make sure that most of the activities and events could still be enjoyed by our many visitors during the weekend.

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EDITORIAL

Hello Autumn

A few weeks ago we were saying goodbye to summer. School had started. Summer vacations had concluded. It was an in-between time to look back at a full season of outdoor events and activities. Now, fall is settling in. We have months of cold weather ahead and the signs are all around. Many birds that migrate south over winter have left. The low-flying barn swallows begin their migration when the temperature drops. The honking of Canada geese is a familiar fall sound over our rolling countryside. The bright-colored goldfinch has left. Some of our townspeople also migrate south as snowbirds.

Students have settled into school, and for some, midterms are already here. Fall sports are geared up for turf battles between schools. Many parents are facing the soccer travel challenge. Some sports have begun to move indoors.

Homeowners are debating when to bring in the outdoor furniture — if at all — and some have mowed the lawn for the last time. Others are busy with another seasonal ritual: raking leaves. Or not.

Inside, the furnace has fired up. Or not. Some hapless homeowners have to call for service because the furnace didn't work on the first fall temperature test.

Once the house warms up, it becomes a draw for all the mice seeking shelter and food for the winter ahead. These pointy-nosed invaders are highly successful with their annual migration into our homes. Just another sign of the season.

Every fall the Hudson Valley becomes a destination for leaf peepers, but this year the fall colors may be less pronounced, according to the experts. A major factor was the wet summer season. Dutchess County data shows there were some rainfall records this summer. Rain dilutes the sugars in the leaves, affecting the hues. Cold nights help trigger the changeover, but many nights have only seen temps in the 40s. We're at the end of the third week in October, when the color change is typically in peak range, and professional photographers and leaf watchers are scrambling to capture and witness fall foliage in all its boldness and glory. Black bears are stocking up for a long winter's hibernation that typically starts around Thanksgiving. Now, they can be seen everywhere, of course.

Another ubiquitous sign of the fall season can be found on front lawns and roadsides throughout eastern Dutchess County: campaign placards. Tuesday, Nov. 7, is Election Day and this cycle, there are races for county and municipal office.

The Millerton News sponsored a meet-the-candidate forum in Amenia last week for five candidates for local office. The League of Women Voters moderated the event, which surfaced several issues on voters' minds. See story on Page A1. This week, another candidate forum was sponsored by The News and The New Pine Plains Herald to give voters an opportunity to hear from candidates for town office. See story on www.tricornernews.com

Scrutiny of Amenia's Planning Board

A public hearing for increasing the Amenia Town Tax Levy above the 2% cap is scheduled for Nov. 2, 7 p.m., at Amenia Town Hall. You can get the 2024 Tentative Budget from the Town Clerk's Office. Some of this year's budget items include \$40,000 for sidewalk snow removal in Hamlet of Amenia. Boston and New York require property owners and businesses to remove snow on the sidewalks. A new gym floor in Town Hall is expected to cost \$40-60,000. \$4,800 has been allocated for architectural renderings—not to aid the contractor in installing the new floor, but to meet the requirements of the getting bids. \$1,000 for a title search of the Little Raised Park in Wassaic — likely to discover no record of ownership.

At least these expenses have

some benefit to the Town. Hiring litigation lawyers to defend two lawsuits against the Amenia Planning Board is inexcusable. The Town Board could have saved this expense by exercising oversight over the Planning Board. Chapter 24-10 of the Amenia Town Code allows the Town Board to remove Planning Board Members for cause. Dishonesty, fraud, failure to follow required procedure and incompetence are allowable grounds for removing someone from the Planning Board.

The Planning Board certified that there would be no adverse environmental effect from using herbicides at Troutbeck. Let readers judge for themselves whether this is a true statement or not. The Planning Board did not follow required procedure when they voted a waiver to allow a house

Endorsing Leo Blackman for Amenia

I am writing to endorse Leo Blackman as Supervisor for the Town of Amenia. Leo has had a positive impact in our town having served on the Town Board for the last two years, as former Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals, and as a Planning Board member.

Leo donated his professional architectural and design services for the restoration of the Gridley Chapel in Wassaic, the design of the new food pantry building at St. Thomas' Church

in Amenia Union, as well as redesigns for the Community Kitchen at the Amenia Town Hall and installing the town hall gardens.

He is passionate about achieving long-promised town goals such as a new wastewater system (for which he succeeded in obtaining a grant), working with the engineer on the design for a new highway department, increasing the developer's fee for workforce housing and purchasing a site for 20



"I guess I'm the only one who doesn't know why I show up early."

**Remember**  
The Lakeville Journal Company offers free online subscriptions to our website, tricornernews.com, for active duty military personnel from the Tri-state region. For more information or to set up a subscription, contact Sandra Lang at circulation@lakevillejournal.com or 860-435-9873, ext. 301.

**Correcting Errors**  
We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Endorsing Parisi for DA

As Dutchess County District Attorney, Anthony Parisi will:

- Prioritize public safety and prevent crime through Intelligence Led Policing
- Improve office transparency
- Keep our children safe in their schools
- Address Domestic Violence

- Appoint a Hate Crimes Prosecutor
- Establish a Conviction Integrity Unit
- Reform policies on charging adolescents
- Demand the highest ethical standards for all prosecutors

Anthony will be independent-minded and keep politics out of the District

Attorney's Office. He values fairness and justice and has the experience needed to be an outstanding District Attorney.

I urge you to vote for Anthony Parisi to be our next District Attorney.

**The Honorable David Steinberg (retired)**

Poughkeepsie

Jeanine Sisco for Pine Plains

Pine Plains is so fortunate to have Jeanine Sisco as a candidate for Town Board! Jeanine and her husband have lived in Pine Plains for 40 years and raised their three children here. Her work experience — as a New York State employee at the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) for 37 years — has provided her with skills that will be enormously useful to the town. Jeanine had several administrative positions at the OPWDD and gained experience with purchasing and renovating properties, following New York State building codes, and

engaging in the bidding and construction processes. This type of experience will be invaluable for a Town Board member.

Jeanine now serves on the Board of the Stissing Center Guild and her love for our town is obvious.

Speaking of her family, Jeanine has said that "The quality of life in Pine Plains, in our small town, has molded our soul and taught us that the most important part of life is found in relationships

with others and with our community and its environment."

Her attitude toward her job as a Town Board member is the ultimate in democratic values: she has committed to listening to and learning from community members so that she can use the community's shared values as a guidepost.

Pine Plains needs Jeanine Sisco!

**Amy Rothstein**

Pine Plains

Supporting Blackman in Amenia

I have lived in Amenia all my life and my family can trace its roots back to the Gridleys. I love Amenia, which is why my husband Bruce and I are supporting Leo Blackman for Supervisor in the election on November 7th. We have known Leo for 20 years. He is our neighbor across the street and, in fact, lives in the house where I grew up. Leo is a great neighbor — friendly, concerned, helpful and fun. We supported him when he ran for Town Board two years ago and have been very impressed with all he has accomplished in his time on the Board. He has the energy, vision and commitment needed to take on big projects needed to improve the town. I hope you will join us in supporting Leo Blackman for Supervisor.

**Sandra Hoadley Conlin and Bruce Conlin**

Wassaic

Kevin Walsh for Town Board

We want to urge Pine Plains voters to support Kevin Walsh for one of the two open Town Board positions. Kevin and his wife have lived in Pine Plains for the past 35 years and have raised their children here.

A forthright clear thinker and Navy veteran, Kevin has

served on the Pine Plains Conservation Advisory Council and regards Pine Plains as "a gemstone that needs a little polish to be a jewel." Kevin loves our town and wants it to retain its sense of inclusive community. He believes our town can try to help fill some of the vacant buildings in town by implementing a new town septic system with government funding. This would support new businesses which otherwise lack adequate septic systems. Kevin

understands that planning does not mean Pine Plains becomes a Rhinebeck.

In our opinion, Kevin Walsh is exactly the kind of Town Board member Pine Plains needs. He has a commitment to the Town where he and his wife have raised their family and is in favor of improving business opportunities in Pine Plains while simultaneously supporting our town's special rural beauty.

**Rachel and Ron Minkoff**

Pine Plains

Victoria Perotti support

From June 2017 until Jan. 1, 2022, a period of 4 1/2 years, I served the Town of Amenia as councilman on the Town Board. Although a practicing lawyer for over 50 years at that time, I had never held public office and my experience in municipal law was clearly limited. When I ran unsuccessfully for reelection in 2021, I knew a lot more about how to run a town than I did in 2017, but my knowledge paled in comparison to Victoria's. My time as a Board member proves the adage that there is no substitute for experience.

Victoria is tough but fair, and she is blessed with good common sense. In all my experience, I have never met a more devoted public servant. In short, she cares very deeply about the Town of Amenia and its citizens and we are very fortunate to have her as our Supervisor. She is most deserving of our support as she seeks reelection.

**Jim Morris**

Amenia

built on crest of Westerly Ridge without notice to neighbors or holding a public hearing. And the shenanigans of changing Troutbeck's traditional category of use from Non-conforming Use, which requires setting aside 50% of property for open space, to Adaptive Re-use, which allows expansion for an historic building, (not building 7 new structures and parking lot) is fraud.

The lawsuit against the Planning Board regarding Troutbeck has nine well-documented claims of the Planning Board's malfeasance. The lawsuit regarding 108 Westerly Ridge has five. If the Amenia Town Board had carried out its oversight responsibilities, they would perhaps not be seeking to increase our town levy above the 2% cap.

**George Bistransin**

Amenia

units, nudging Hudson River housing to do so.

Leo's commitment and list of accomplishments for the Town of Amenia is impressive. He has lived in the Town with his husband, Ken Monteiro, for twenty years. I have known Leo for a long time. He has a great sense of humor which is important for anyone dealing with small town politics! Leo will make a great supervisor.

**Tonia Shoumatoff**

Wassaic

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**Volume 92, Number 39** Thursday, October 19, 2023

**Mission Statement**  
The Lakeville Journal Company, Publishers of **The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News**  
Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.

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## OUR TOWNS

# Recent property sales in the Town of North East

The Millerton News will periodically publish a listing of residential real estate sales in eastern Dutchess County and adjacent towns.

Recorded real estate sales in the Town of North East in July and August were marked by the sale of two single-family residences over \$1 million; the recorded purchase by the Town of North East of the former Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses building

on Route 22; the sale by the Town of North East of a .64-acre building lot to Habitat for Humanity for affordable housing; and the sale of a 10-unit mobile home park for \$760,000.

**July**  
5603 Route 22, former religious building on 3 acres, sold for \$430,000

27-61 Scenic View, 10-unit mobile home complex on 8.22 acres, sold for \$760,000

1554 Boston Corners Road, 3-bedroom/3-bathroom single-family home on 2.64 acres, sold for \$1.8 million

**August**  
Rudd Pond Road near the intersection with Gay Road, .64-acre building lot, sold for \$25,000

29 Gay Road, 2-bedroom/2-bath single-family home on 1.15 acres, sold for \$300,000

17 Forest Lane,

4-bedroom/3.5-bath single-family home built in 2009, sold for \$899,000

37 Mountain Farm Road, 3-bedroom/3.5-bath single-family home on 17.5 acres, sold for \$1.610 million

Town of North East recorded land, commercial and residential sales in July and August provided by Dutchess County Office of Real Property.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

This historic 1780 home in Boston Corners on 2.64 acres with a swimming pool received a high-style makeover and sold quickly for \$1.8 million, well over the listed asking price of \$1.275 million. In 2020 it was sold for \$638,000.

Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.

### Millerton Fire Company plans pancake breakfast

MILLERTON — The Millerton Fire Company will hold an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 22, from 7 to 11 a.m. at the firehouse, 24 Century Blvd.

The menu will include chocolate chip, blueberry or plain pancakes; bacon; sausage; homefries; scrambled, sunny-side up or over-easy eggs; toast; and coffee, tea or juice.

The cost is \$12 for adults, \$6 for older adults and chil-

dren ages 5-12, and free for children age 4 and under. For more information, call 845-233-1475 or 845-366-8693. Subsequent breakfasts will be held on the fourth Sunday of every month.

### Stanford Grange to hold takeout turkey dinner

STANFORDVILLE — Stanford Grange No. 808 will host a harvest turkey dinner on Saturday, Oct. 21, at 5 p.m. at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82. The menu will include roast turkey, stuffing, mashed po-

tatoes and gravy, green beans, mashed butternut squash, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie for dessert.

There is a \$17 donation per dinner, and all dinners are takeout only. Participants are asked to drive to

the back door of the Grange Hall, pay for their dinner, get their food through their car window, and take it home to enjoy it. For reservations or more information, call Stanford Grange secretary Ryan Orton at 845-868-7869.

## LEGAL NOTICES

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Notice of Formation of Chrysanthemom, LLC Corp. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 8/31/23. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 6 Academy St., Pine Plains, NY 12567 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

09-14-23  
09-21-23  
09-28-23  
10-05-23  
10-12-23  
10-19-23

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Notice of Formation of Art. Of Org. Solidago Home, LLC, filed with SSNY on

7/13/2023. Office Location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 41 Woodlea Road, Salt Point, NY 12578. Purpose: Home and Garden Organization.

09-28-23  
10-05-23  
10-12-23  
10-19-23  
10-26-23  
11-02-23

**Notice of Submission of Question to Voters of the Town of Amenia at the next General Election**

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to NYS Education Law §259(1)(13), and in accordance with

the provision of the N.Y.S. Election Law, the following question will be submitted to the qualified voters of the Town of Amenia at the General Election to be held on the 7th day of November, 2023:

“Shall the annual contribution of the Town of Amenia for the operating budget of the Amenia Free Library be increased by Fifty Thousand (\$50,000) Dollars to the sum of Two Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand (\$225,000) Dollars annually?”

Dawn Marie Klingner  
Town Clerk  
Town of Amenia  
10-19-23  
10-26-23

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Millbrook School

## DIRECTOR OF PRINCIPAL & LEADERSHIP GIFTS

Millbrook School is seeking to fill the role of Director of Principal and Leadership Gifts, a full-time exempt position which will report to the Director of Advancement. The person in this position will help to deepen the relationships parents, friends and donors have with Millbrook School and strengthen the perceived value of giving to the school. This Advancement team member will play a vital leadership role in securing aspirational philanthropic support for Millbrook's Annual Fund and comprehensive campaign. Key responsibilities include:

- Secures five, six and seven figure major and planned gift commitments.
- Cultivate and steward Millbrook's parent and past parent constituencies.
- Manages a portfolio of 80-100 major gift parent prospects.
- Manage and solicit gifts for Millbrook's VI Form Gift program.
- Conducts prospect qualification in the early phase of a campaign.
- Develops Individual Prospect Plans for all parent prospects in portfolio.
- Reaches out to 100% of managed portfolio in a given fiscal year.
- Serves as resource for consultation on prospects in fellow fundraisers' pools.
- Maintains accurate, up-to-date records of prospects and donors in RE NXT.
- Ensures that major gift conversations are in motion for each subsequent fiscal year.
- Drafts and executes gift agreements with director of advancement and gift processing team.
- Stewards donors in major gifts portfolio to inspire long-term relationships with Millbrook School.

### Education and Qualification Requirements

- At least three to five years of experience in development with a proven ability to engage individuals, secure gifts, and the ability to inspire donors to provide significant philanthropic support.
- Proven record of fundraising success securing major gifts in the six and seven figure range.
- Experience managing a prospect portfolio of at least 80+ major gift prospects.
- Understanding and appreciation for the philanthropic process and individual giving behaviors.
- Bachelor's degree and direct solicitation experience.
- Demonstrated professional experience, preferably within an educational setting.
- Proficiency in Raiser's Edge, Google applications, Microsoft Office Suite.
- Excellent written, verbal, and interpersonal communication skills & works collaboratively with others.
- Ability to travel extensively and on a regular basis domestically and internationally.
- Effective communicator with ability to compellingly articulate Millbrook's mission and authentic needs to donors and prospects
- Builds strong relationships with teammates, campus partners, and external community.
- Proficient in communicating Millbrook School's priorities & programs to a range of prospective donors.

### Specific Requirements / Essential Function

- Must be able to read, write, speak, and understand the English language.
- Must possess the ability to make independent decisions when circumstances warrant such action.
- Must have the ability to work harmoniously and effectively with others.
- Must be able to follow written and oral instructions.
- Must have patience, tact, cheerful disposition and enthusiasm when dealing with alumni, parents, donors, personnel, students, and family members.
- Must be able to work in person, on campus.
- Must be able to travel and attend school/community events on nights and weekends.
- Must have a clean and valid driver's license and a valid passport.
- Must be proficient in composition of written communication.

### Physical & Sensory Requirements (with or without the aid of a medical device)

- Must be able to move intermittently throughout the workday.
- Must be able to speak and write the English language in an understandable manner.
- Must be able to cope with the mental and emotional stress of the position.
- Must possess sight/hearing senses or use prosthetics that will enable these senses to function adequately so that the requirements of this position can be fully met.
- Must function independently.
- Must be able to lift, push, pull, and move equipment, supplies, etc., without restrictions.
- Must be able to travel and attend school/community events on nights and weekends.

In compliance with the NYS Salary Transparency Law, the salary range for this position is \$75,000 - \$95,000. When determining placement in the salary range, Millbrook School considers factors including, but not limited to, work experience, education, training, skills, and other factors permitted by law. Millbrook School is an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Interested candidates should contact Patti Starzyk, Director of Human Resources, via email at [pstarzyk@millbrook.org](mailto:pstarzyk@millbrook.org) or send it to Millbrook School, 131 Millbrook School Road, Millbrook, NY 12545.

As an equal opportunity employer, Millbrook School does not discriminate in hiring or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, citizenship status, sex, age, marital status, disability, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, or local law. Moreover, Millbrook School recognizes the value of a diverse faculty and staff, and actively seeks candidates from a wide variety of backgrounds.

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## TECHNICAL ADVISOR

### The Housatonic River Initiative, Inc.

(HRI) is seeking a Technical Advisor for its current US EPA Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) for the EPA GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Superfund Site.

Details about the Solicitation including qualification requirements, duties of the contractual position, and the application process can be found on our website at:

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