



**MILLERTON**  
NECC Farmers Market Heads Indoors For The Winter **A2**



**MILLBROOK**  
The Fascinating History Of Mary Flagler Cary & Her Legacy **B3**

**COMPASS** Gingerbread Houses; Local Authors, Calendar; And More **B1-B2**

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ARCHIVE PHOTO

Joseph and Barbara Albanese of Middletown were among the many New York State residents to get their COVID-19 vaccines at one of the first clinics held at Dover High School in January 2021; both received the Pfizer vaccines.

## A Year in Review — Part I

# Reflecting on the challenges of 2021

By **KAITLIN LYLE**  
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

**HARLEM VALLEY** — After a year of cataclysmic developments in 2020 that included a global pandemic, which forced citizens around the world to adjust their lives to fit a new normal, 2021 was a testament to the ways in which communities can rally together to create meaningful change and help one another navigate life in the wake of major upheaval.

As is tradition for The Millerton News, in our first edition of the New Year we like to reflect on the major

stories reported on in the year before throughout the Harlem Valley. Some of the headlines that grabbed the most attention follow below.

### 2021

Despite the impact COVID-19 made on the state, counties and many municipalities, Harlem Valley communities were determined to move forward on critical projects.

In our area, there was a consensus that infrastructure projects had to be addressed as a priority. The North East, Pine Plains and Amenia Town Boards

See **A YEAR IN REVIEW, A6**

# January Regents exams canceled due to COVID

By **KAITLIN LYLE**  
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

**NEW YORK STATE** — Due to the alarming uptick of COVID-19 cases statewide, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) announced its decision to cancel the January 2022 High School Regents exams just as 2021 came to an end.

As published online at [www.nysed.gov](http://www.nysed.gov) on Tuesday, Dec. 21, NYSED's cancellation applies to all Regents exams scheduled for this month.

As a result of the January 2022 Regents exams being canceled, NYSED intends to ask the Board of Regents

to approve modifications to the assessment requirements that students are required to meet in order to earn their high school diplomas, credentials and endorsements.

Additionally, NYSED will ask the Board of Regents to adopt emergency regulations regarding the assessment requirements that students usually need to fulfill as part of earning their diploma.

NYSED stated "students who are planning to take one or more Regents Examinations during the January 2022 examination period at the

See **REGENTS EXAMS, A6**

# Early morning fire on New Year's Eve day leaves Scribner Road home gutted

By **WHITNEY JOSEPH**  
editor@millertonnews.com

**MILLERTON** — When Millerton Fire Chief Jason Watson arrived on the scene of the one-alarm structure fire 44 minutes after midnight on Friday, Dec. 31, the last day of 2021, he had no idea if there was anyone trapped inside the two-story home at 36 Scribner Road.

He arrived on scene a mere 10 minutes after the call was received

for the Millerton house fire. As Watson described days later, "The house was fully involved when I got there... there were flames coming out of every room."

The seasoned fire chief said it was one of more severe fires he's seen during his career in emergency services.

He called for an additional tanker, which brought additional equipment and personnel from fire departments from nearby Amenia, Wassauc and

Pine Plains, plus North East Medic I, as well as companies from Sharon and Lakeville, Conn.

Lakeville was also brought in to stand by in Millerton's Fire Station, said Watson.

According to the chief, "The first engine arrived on scene and immediately began suppressing the fire, utilizing compressed air foam. No civilians or fire personnel were in-

See **FIRE, A6**

# A deeper look at Village Board's changes within Millerton PD

By **WHITNEY JOSEPH**  
editor@millertonnews.com

**MILLERTON** — In the last issue of 2021, The Millerton News examined some procedural changes Millerton Mayor Jenn Najdek and her Village Board made starting this January on a one-month trial basis within the part-time, nine-member Millerton Police Department (MPD).

The primary change involved the department's patrol schedule. Najdek said she wants the force to be more cost efficient and to improve safety when the village is exceptionally busy

— namely when tourists and locals are shopping, dining and going to the movies on the weekends.

### Changing shifts

Adding shifts to when the mayor thinks it's more active in the village means subtracting shifts from other times police typically patrol.

MPD Officer-in-Charge Mike Veeder said the new changes will sacrifice police coverage when call volumes are actually higher and more severe. He added that the MPD's call volume has increased fairly dramatically since this past summer, though he's not sure why.

Veeder is awaiting a report from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office (DCSO), which he asked to compile for the Village Board to prove his point. He planned to bring it to the Village Board meeting on Monday, Dec. 13, but the DCSO had not finalized the report by then.

Najdek said if the DCSO's call report shows "more serious" calls coming at particular times, the board will re-evaluate its decision. The mayor said previously that decision was based on safety and fiscal concerns.

See **MPD, A6**

## U.S. Rep. Delgado made it happen

# Biden to bestow Medal of Honor on late Korean War vet from Millbrook

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

**MILLBROOK** — "He was such a kind person, sincere and very well liked."

So said Betty Thurst as she remembered Charles Robert Johnson, whom everybody called "Charlie." Johnson was a classmate of Thurst's at Arlington High School more than 70 years ago.

John Reed, who was Senior Class president all those years ago was in the same class with Thurst and Johnson. He also remembers Charlie.

"He was quiet, but friendly," said Reed. "He came to Arlington from Millbrook as a senior, because Arlington had a stronger sports program."

Records show Johnson went back to help others to safety; he died trying to protect eight wounded soldiers while holding off the enemy.

Reed and others who attended Arlington High School in Poughkeepsie those seven or more decades ago also recall that while Johnson excelled in sports, he was also very musical.

The student from Millbrook was an excellent trumpet player, and even though he was a newcomer to the Arlington Central School District, he was well liked and elected vice-president of the Student Class. He served along side Reed and Thurst, who was secretary.

His popularity was especially

notable at the time as Johnson was not like all of the other students at Arlington. He wasn't white, he was Black, and therefore in the minority of the student population back then.

Much time has passed since then, but those who knew Johnson remember him positively and note he was more than just a nice and good person. He was special.

Sure, he excelled in both football and basketball, as well as in music.

See **MEDAL OF HONOR, A6**



### CONTACT

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Millerton.....	A2	Millbrook.....	B3
Amenia.....	A3	Opinion.....	B4
Legals.....	A3	Pine Plains/Area.....	B5
Obituaries.....	A4	Classifieds.....	B5
Compass.....	B1-2	Specialist Directory.....	B6

### OPINION

Amenia Wastewater Survey Anything But A Waste Of Time; Letters **B4**



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# MILLERTON

## Housing group forms strategy, focuses on zoning

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The Millerton-North East working group of the Tri-Town Coalition housing group addressed various factors that play a role in the affordable housing conversation and assessed ways to reach underrepresented home owners in the region at its November and December meetings.

The group's final meeting of 2021 was held via Zoom on Tuesday, Dec. 14

In that four of its 10 members attended the North East Town Board's December meeting to talk about affordable housing, leader Sam Busselle asked them to share what they said. One by one, they recapped their suggestions on how to change the housing narrative.

They emphasized the reality of what's considered affordable to different families in the community; housing definitions and issues with the zoning review process; they made recommendations for the updated Com-

prehensive Plan, and how it can provide more equitable housing options.

The group plans to present its thoughts to the Millerton Village Board on Monday, Jan. 10, at 6 p.m. as well.

At the working group's Nov. 9 meeting, members spent time discussing comments raised at their first Regional Plan Association (RPA) training session on Oct. 12.

Busselle said a number of people were curious as to "where we go and how we maintain some momentum and interest for a long period of time" about affordable housing, "because this [issue] isn't going to go away."

They considered how to interest different community groups

in their mission and attract more participants.

Gathering information into articulate definitions could be key, said Busselle, adding defining available real estate, breaking down housing costs and median incomes would also help.

If the group had more advocates, he added it could spread its message at village and town meetings. Having housing experts on hand would also help get people interested in figuring out how to develop it locally.

"We need people who have vision because they have experience in zoning that is progressive, that is ambitious and really nails down what we need that has to do with the priorities of the Comprehensive Plan," Bus-

selle said.

North East resident Bill Kish said if the group wants a progressive approach to solving housing problems in the town, "the composition of the Zoning Review Committee as it exists right now is problematic."

To improve advocacy, he suggested "expand[ing] the Zoning Committee and incorporate[ing] more people because otherwise it's going to be business as usual."

Busselle said the Comprehensive Plan recommends a steering committee with members from both the town and village to address housing and a consultant to guide it.

Voicing his support for "any kind of movement to get that expertise available to us," Busselle

said he hopes to attract different types of people representing different parts of the town and village.

Working group members discussed reaching out to neighbors who might be underrepresented in the housing discussion, while Millerton resident and Webutuck teacher Monica Baker suggested contacting the North East (Webutuck) Central School District.

Millerton resident Meg Winkler praised Baker's idea.

"In every place I've lived, the school is the center that brought us all together," she said. "The school was central to everything, and even the people who didn't have their children in public school still came about and joined things with the school."

### SHERIFF'S REPORT

The following information was provided by the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office (DCSO). All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

#### Domestic dispute

Saturday, Jan. 1, Deputies responded to Route 22 in the Town of North East for a domestic dispute.

The matter resolved without incident.

#### Larceny investigation

Saturday, Jan. 1, Deputies on patrol responded to 3189 Route 22, the Four Brothers Restaurant in Amenia, to follow up on the investigation on a past occurred larceny of cooking oil.

The investigation is ongoing.

#### Aggravated DWI arrest

Friday, Dec. 31, Deputies arrested one Leeann Villano, age 58, for Aggravated DWI subsequent to a Property Damage Automobile Accident investigation on Cricket Hill Road in the Town of Dover.

Villano was processed and released with tickets to appear in the Town of Dover Court at a later date.

#### Unresponsive subject

Sunday, Dec. 26, Deputies responded to the area of 3294 Route 343 in Amenia for an unresponsive person, possibly under the influence of a foreign substance.

Narcan was administered and the subject was revived. The subject was transported to Sharon Hospital by EMS after regaining consciousness.

#### DWI arrest

Friday, Dec. 24, Deputies responded to the "S-turns" on Pleasant Ridge Road in Dover for a single-vehicle crash. Following the investigation, Deputy Strang arrested Eric Domonell, age 32, for Driving While Intoxicated (DWI).

Domonell was processed and released with tickets returnable to Town of Dover Court at a later date.

#### Stolen package

Tuesday, Dec. 21, Deputies took a report of a lost or stolen Amazon package from 181 Johnson Road in Dover.

The investigation is continuing.

#### Domestic dispute reported

Saturday, Dec. 18, Deputies responded to Old State Route 22 in the Town of Dover for a reported domestic dispute.

The matter was resolved without incident.

#### Vehicle vs. house collision

Friday, Dec. 17, Deputies responded to 5660 Route 22 in the Town of North East for a vehicle that collided into a house.

The operator was transported to Sharon Hospital with minor injuries. No structural damage was done to the residence.

#### Welfare check

Thursday, Dec. 16, Deputies responded to the Mobil Gas Station at 1782 Route 22 in Dover for the welfare check of a customer who appeared to be lost.

The subject was located and returned home safely without further incident.

#### Domestic dispute reported

Monday, Dec. 13, Deputies and the New York State Police (NYS) responded to 3294 Route

22 in the Town of Dover for a domestic disturbance.

No offenses appeared to have been committed. The matter was resolved without further incident.

#### Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of Vehicle

Wednesday, Dec. 8, Deputies cited Jairo Oliveria for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the 3rd degree subsequent to a traffic stop at 5426 Route 22 in the Town of North East.

The subject was processed and released with Uniformed Traffic Tickets, which were returnable to the Town of Northeast Court.

#### Weapons possession charges

Wednesday, Dec. 1, Detectives and Deputies reported the arrest of 41-year-old Robert T. St. John in Amenia, who was charged with Criminal Possession of a Weapon (CPW), 2nd-Loaded Firearm; Menacing 2nd; Criminal Contempt 2nd; and Endangering the Welfare of a Child Subsequent to an Incident Reported to the Sheriff's Office. The charges stem from an incident that occurred in the town of North East.

St. John was arraigned in Town of North East Court and remanded to the Dutchess County Jail.

#### Criminal mischief

Thursday, Nov. 30, Deputies investigated an act of criminal mischief to the press box reported in Pine Plains at the Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School.

No further action has been reported as of this time.

#### Disturbance reported

Thursday, Nov. 30, Deputies responded to 12 David Road in Millerton for an unwanted person causing a disturbance.

The situation was mediated by the Deputies on patrol.

#### Report crime tips

Anyone with details to the aforementioned criminal cases, or any other suspected criminal activity, should call 845-605-CLUE (2583) or email dcsotips@gmail.com. All information will be kept confidential.

The Millerton News will publish the outcome of police charges. Mail to P.O. Box 625, Millerton, NY 12546. Attn: Police Blotter, or send an email, with "police blotter" in the subject line, to editor@millertonnews.com.

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Now that the New Year has arrived with winter in tow, the North East Community Center's (NECC) Millerton Farmers Market has moved its operations indoors. It's also soliciting local input to see what changes at the market might be beneficial.

Considering how the Farmers Market fared during the 2021 fall season, Market Manager John Nowak said that NECC experienced its own recovery from COVID-19 in 2021.

It helped that NECC was able to host some activities outside when the weather was nice and mild, which it couldn't have done when COVID-19 regulations were extremely strict. Those include various children's events at the market and the popular annual Dog Days of Summer held in the summer.

In November, the Millerton Farmers Market shifted its vendors from outdoors at Veterans Park into the comfort of the Millerton Methodist Church. The church is located at 6 Dutchess Ave., at the corner of Main Street across from Irving Farm coffeehouse.

In addition to its eight regular vendors, Nowak said the market is now able to house new vendors since it doesn't have to maintain as great a social distance as it did last year. That, of course, could change as the virus numbers continue to fluctuate.

To that end, Nowak remarked on how the market was only allowed half as many vendors as it would have liked in 2021 due to pandemic restrictions.

For 2022, Nowak said the market has vendor space (most are local vendors); a space for incoming artisans; a community table for local nonprofits (such as Hudson River Housing and Sunday in the Country Food Drive); and a spot for performers to perform at open-mic events. The market will also hold contests, offer



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN NOWAK

food samples and other amenities it previously wasn't able to offer when the pandemic was at its height.

"We're happy to add those back to the market enhancements," said a happy Nowak, "and we're seeing a return of all our regular customers; we're seeing a return of visitors to the

area."

As NECC considers different aspects people have asked about (such as schedule, location and vendors), Nowak said the community center will issue a survey in the region some time this month. Following the survey, he said NECC will likely make tweaks based on those results to

Now that winter is here and colder days are predicted in the forecast, the Millerton Farmers Market has moved from outdoors at Veterans Park into the warmth of the Millerton Methodist Church. The market is every second and fourth Saturday of the month through April 23. There remain a variety of vendors to browse among, so make sure to stop by!

benefit the community and enhance the shopping experience.

"To me, the market is for the community, so [it's] whatever the community says," Nowak said.

Asked what aspects he thinks might improve the Millerton Farmers Market, Nowak said he would like to offer more vendors, possibly a fish monger, a cheese vendor who sells goat cheese and more farmers who sell fresh vegetables.

NECC's Millerton Farmers Market is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. inside the Millerton Methodist Church on the second and fourth Saturday of each month through Saturday, April 23.

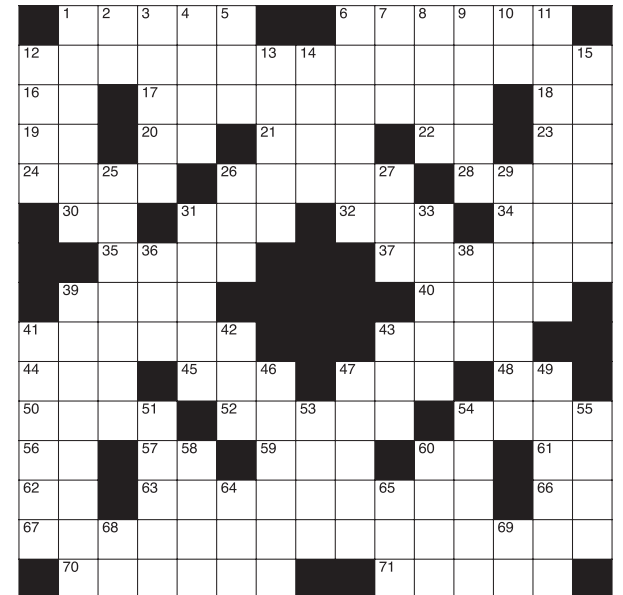
### Brain Teasers

#### CLUES ACROSS

- Struck firmly
- Shirt part
- Nevertheless
- Article
- Adornment
- Educator's helper
- Healthcare pro
- Atomic number 28
- Extinct flightless bird
- Mystic syllable
- College sports decision maker (abbr.)
- Edible mushrooms
- Venerable English monk
- Surrounded by
- Forming fractional numbers from 4 onwards
- Eastern France river
- Short cry or yelp
- Brew
- Ornamental box
- In a way, surfaced
- Attired
- Pecculation
- Netted
- It shows you paid (abbr.)
- Payroll firm
- Antidiuretic hormone
- Japanese classical theater
- The first two
- Ancient burial chamber
- Type of card
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- Hectoliter
- Morning
- NYC subway dweller
- Law enforcement
- Sodium
- Elevated subway
- Facility where wild animals are kept
- Integrated circuit
- Seaman's tool
- Drink
- Small group

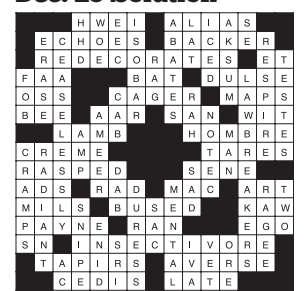
#### CLUES DOWN

- Poem
- Everest is one (abbr.)
- Olympic legend Jesse
- Portable tent
- When you hope to get there
- Unwavering
- Back muscle
- Within
- Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- Six
- Involved as a necessary part
- 2002 Liotta, Patric film
- Living thing

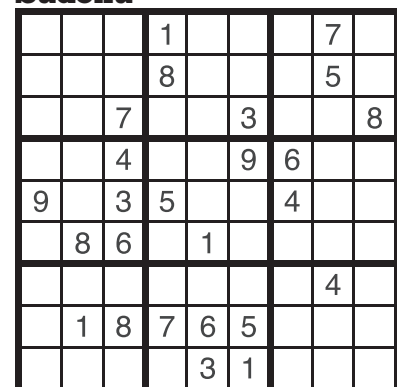


- Type of gin
- Moved around in pursuit of fun
- Makes light bulbs
- Story of one's life
- Small island in a river
- A type of bliss
- Genus of large herons
- A way to make dry
- One's grandmother
- Vocal style
- Pronunciation mark
- American Indian chief or leader
- Insecticide
- Go bad
- Capital of Zimbabwe
- Polish river
- Cast out
- People of India and Sri Lanka
- Cleaning fabrics
- Very skilled
- Pouches
- Restaurant must-have
- Native Americans from Arizona
- Remaining after all deductions
- Fleece
- Dorm official
- It cools your home

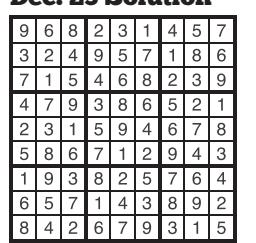
#### Dec. 23 Solution



#### Sudoku



#### Dec. 23 Solution



Level: Intermediate

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# Wastewater Committee asks property owners to respond to townwide survey

By KAITLIN LYLE  
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AMENIA — Hoping to gauge the community's interest in having a central wastewater system installed in town's business district, the Amenia Wastewater Committee (AWC) launched a survey in December to learn how folks think sewage is handled, and should be handled, in Amenia.

As explained in the survey's cover letter, the AWC wants to determine "if a portion of the town would benefit from a community wastewater system," adding that "the area under consideration only covers the center of Amenia, stretching north and south along Route 22, east along 343, west along 44."

Besides soliciting input from local property owners, the survey seeks to help the committee map the future wastewater district's borders.

"I think it's important to

find out what people want," said outgoing AWC member and newly elected Amenia town Councilman Leo Blackman. "I know that there have certainly been new people moving into town... In any event, I'm personally curious to see if the needle has moved because I know in the past, it was hard for people volunteering to create a wastewater system to get it beyond a certain point, because there wasn't enough resident buy-in."

Composed by the engineers at Tighe & Bond, the consultants hired for the project, AWC Chair Jim Wright said the survey is part of the process to begin a feasibility study — the first step to creating a sewer system in town.

Wright said the firm sent the committee a sample letter, which the committee rewrote to use as its outgoing survey.

Hard copies of the survey were mailed to every homeowner, business owner, multi-housing-unit owner and all other property owners in the town of Amenia on Thursday, Dec. 9. Those who have not received a survey, or who need help filing their out, should contact Town Hall at 845-373-8118, ext. 105 or ext. 108.

Information about the survey is also available on the very active Wassaic & Amenia Community Facebook page and on the equally busy Millerton Amenia Community Forum Facebook page, both of which include a link to the survey's online version.

Since the committee's goal is to gather responses from as many Amenia residents as possible, Wright said the survey will run for as long as it needs to in order to get a reasonable sampling of the community's needs and reactions.

When The Millerton News inquired after the survey's progress on Monday, Dec. 20 — almost two weeks after it was initially launched — Wright said the AWC had roughly 60 responses from more than 1,000 surveys that were mailed out to property owners.

Once the responses are collected, Wright said the next step will be to compile a record of who responded and then start contacting those who didn't respond.

He said Tighe & Bond will analyze the compiled results to produce a report of where the community stands, highlighting how many people have failing or marginal septic systems

and how many people are in favor of establishing a sewer district in the center of town.

The AWC will then present its completed analysis to the Amenia Town Board, but more importantly, Wright said it will use the survey results to "form a major part of any kind of presentation we make to the Town Board in a community meeting."

Considering that the survey was released in the middle of the busy holiday season and during the fourth wave of the coronavirus, Wright acknowledged it could be a challenging time to get responses. Nevertheless, he said, "We are determined to have the committee members reach out to as many citizens of Amenia as we can get to."

Moving forward, he said committee members will divide up the task of contacting property owners who have not yet responded to the survey. By the end of January, Wright said he's hopeful the AWC will have the kind of data it needs to supply to Tighe & Bond to conduct its analysis so that the AWC may proceed and ultimately figure out the best way to outfit Amenia with septic solutions that will work well for the entire community.



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

A group of children cuddled in pajamas listened to Amenia Free Library Programming Assistant Beth Hale as she read aloud the story of "The Polar Express" right before Christmas.

## Young readers go on a holiday journey

AMENIA — Just before the Christmas holidays, the Amenia Free Library invited its youngest of readers to climb aboard a magical reading experience by attending the Polar Express Evening held in the library's new addition on Friday, Dec. 17.

Beginning at 6 p.m., Beth Hale, the library's new programming assistant, read aloud from Chris Van Allsburg's classic Christmas tale to a group of six youngsters, cozily clad in blankets who sat listening in rapture.

More children arrived as the story progressed, and the little ones were encouraged to wear their snuggliest pajamas just like those in "The Polar Express."

Throughout the evening, they snacked on tasty treats

provided by the library in brown paper bags, sipped hot chocolate and engaged in Christmas-themed crafts.

To check out the newly expanded Amenia Free Library in the New Year, call 845-373-8273, go to 3309 Main St. (Route 343) or go online, to [www.amenialibrary.org](http://www.amenialibrary.org).

Its new hours are Mondays and Thursdays, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesdays and Fridays, from noon to 5 p.m.; Wednesdays, from 2 to 7 p.m.; and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please note that while the original library is closed due to construction, patrons should use the new entrance through the parking lot.

Face masks are required.

— Kaitlin Lyle

### AMENIA IN BRIEF

New year, new library services

Patrons of the Amenia Free Library, at 3309 Main St. (Route 343), can now take advantage of some helpful services being provided in the New Year, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. New curbside pickup and home delivery of library materials are available on top of in-person services.

For curbside pickup, patrons may call 845-373-8273 when they arrive at the library, and library staff will come outside with the requested items.

For home delivery, patrons may reach out via phone or email at [director@amenialibrary.org](mailto:director@amenialibrary.org) to arrange for home delivery of the requested items.

For more details, go to [www.amenialibrary.org](http://www.amenialibrary.org).

Email news and photos to [editor@millertonnews.com](mailto:editor@millertonnews.com)

## OBITUARY

### Helen Anne Ballantyne

MILLBROOK — Helen Anne Ballantyne, 81, of Fairfield, Conn., passed away peacefully after a brief illness on Jan. 1, 2022, at Yale-New Haven Hospital.



She was born in New York City on Jan. 20, 1940, the daughter of the late Helen (Mullolland) and James T.

Asbury Sr., and grew up in Millbrook, developing a lifelong love of horses and riding.

After completing high school, Helen attended Marymount College in Tarrytown, N.Y., graduating as a double major in English and drama (another lifelong passion). She moved to Baltimore, Md., completed her master's degree in English at Johns Hopkins

University and began working at Baltimore Center Stage in its early days. From there Helen moved to a job at the Baltimore Sun as a theater and film critic and interviewed such legendary actors as Myrna Loy and Robert Mitchum. It was also at the Sun that Helen met her husband, Ed, with whom she had 55 years of incredibly happy marital adventures.

A longtime resident of Suffern, N.Y., prior to her recent move to Fairfield, Helen was beloved for her formidable intelligence, humor, energy, warmth, vibrancy and devotion to her family and friends. She was an active member of the liturgical team at the Church of the Pre-

sentation in Upper Saddle River, N.J., and acted in a number of community theater productions.

Helen is survived by her husband, Ed; her daughters, Jessica Gerber and Leslie Ballantyne; her grandchildren, John and Gillian Gerber; her brother, Herb Asbury; and a large and loving extended family. She was predeceased by her brother, Lt. Col. James T. Asbury Jr.; and her grandson, Teddy Gerber.

A private service was held on Jan. 5 at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Fairfield, with a larger memorial to take place in the spring at the Church of the Presentation.

Donations in Helen's memory are requested to St. Baldrick's — Team Teddy; <https://www.stbaldricks.org/events/mypage/108/2022>.

Arrangements are under the care of the Spear-Miller Funeral Home in Fairfield.

For more obituaries, see Page A4.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Planning Board of the Town of North East on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at the North East Town Hall, 19 N. Maple Ave., Millerton, NY at 7:40 PM or as soon thereafter as possible on the application of Charles & Kirby Barrett for a Lot Line Adjustment on Tax Parcel #7070-00-864110 located at 639-641 Smithfield Road, Millerton, NY in the A5A Zoning District of the Town of North East and Parcel #7070-00-961052 located at 691-695 Smithfield Road, Millerton, NY in the A5A Zoning District of the Town of North East.

The above application is open for inspection at the Town Hall or via email. Please request a copy by emailing the Planning Board office at [pb@townofnortheastny.gov](mailto:pb@townofnortheastny.gov) or calling 518-789-3300, Ext. 608. The application is also available on the Town website for inspection.

Persons wishing to appear at such hearing may do so in person or by attorney or other representative. Communications in writing relating thereto may be filed with the Board at such hearing.

Dale Culver  
Chairman  
Planning Board  
01-06-22

### NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS OF PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF RANDOLPH IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

JUVENILE DEPARTMENT RANDOLPH COUNTY FILE NO. 21 JA 68 IN RE: JULIE HANNAN TO: RICHARD CAMPBELL, FATHER OF JULIE HANNAN, A FEMALE CHILD BORN ON OR ABOUT MARCH 11, 2006 IN COLUMBIA COUNTY, NY.

TAKE NOTICE that a juvenile petition with respect to the above-described child has been filed in the above-entitled proceeding.

You are required and directed to make a defense of such pleading by filing an Answer

to the Petition in this proceeding within forty (40) days after the first publication of this notice, exclusive of such date. The Answer must be filed with the Clerk of Superior Court no later than January 25, 2022.

A Permanency Planning Hearing has been scheduled at 9:00 a.m. on February 2,

2022 at the Randolph County District Court, Courtroom #1B, Randolph County Courthouse, 176 E. Salisbury Street, Asheboro, North Carolina. You are entitled to attend any hearings affecting your parental rights. If you are indigent, you have a right to appointed counsel. If you request counsel, do so at or before the time of the hearing. You are further noticed that this a new proceeding and any attorney heretofore appointed to represent you will represent you in this proceeding.

Upon your failure to file an Answer to the Petition within the time prescribed, the Petitioner, the Randolph County Department of Social Services, will apply to the Court for relief sought in the Petition, UP TO AN INCLUDING POSSIBLE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS with respect to the above-described minor children.

This the 16th day of December, 2021.

Chrystal Kay  
Staff Attorney, Randolph County Department of Social Services  
Post Office Box 3239  
Asheboro, North Carolina 27204  
(336) 683-8050

12-16-21  
12-23-21  
01-06-21

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Although climate change and sustainable living may not be the top issues here in our protected NW corner, out in the larger world, they are. The first step to address these issues is knowledge and one of the best ways to gather this quickly is to subscribe to Nick Gottlieb's newsletter Sacred Headwaters. Nick grew up here in Sharon and is now in British Columbia actively addressing the complex issues surrounding climate change. His newsletter will help to both understand the issues and the actions to take in building a more sustainable world. Please visit and subscribe to Nick's newsletter at <https://sacredheadwaters.substack.com/about>.

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## OBITUARIES

### David Chamberlain Heininger

CORNWALL — David Chamberlain Heininger, 63, of Snowflake, Ariz., died Dec. 18, 2021, at Summit Hospital in Show Low, Ariz. Kathryn, his wife of 39 years, was at his bedside.



David, the son of Dorothy (née Chamberlain) and Robert M. Heininger, was born in Torrington in 1958 and grew up in Cornwall. He was a graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School (1976) and the culinary program of Johnson & Wales University in Providence, R.I.

In high school, he was the designated chauffeur for many adventures as his first car, a vintage NYC yellow Checker cab, had room for several friends. Friends from those days will remember his musical gifts and his talent as a magician.

After college, David moved to Tucson to help his parents settle into retirement, where he met Kathryn. David and Kathryn returned to the east, residing in Millerton for a period in the 1980s, during which time David was employed at the Interlaken Inn in Lakeville. His culinary creativity secured the inn's reputation as the place for brunch in the area.

David was a master chef and confectioner who worked over the course of his life in many aspects of the food business. After various successful culi-

nary endeavors and operating a property renovation business together in the Tucson area, David and Kathryn moved to Snowflake in 2000, living off-grid, nestled against Black Mesa.

There they founded Black Mesa Ranch, an award-winning goat cheese and candy business. David was the heart and soul of Black Mesa Ranch. His goat cheeses and candies were celebrated around the country.

Retiring the cheese and ranching endeavor in 2018, they recently purchased a home outside Snowflake, where they relocated their artisan fudge and candy business, Epic Fine Chocolates. Kathryn will continue the business, which features David's recipes and designs.

David's affable manner and wealth of imagination and talent drew people to him throughout his life. He was also a skilled artist and craftsman and a master negotiator, causing many car dealers to ask, "Wait...what just happened?"

In addition to Kathryn (née Collier), his soulmate and partner in business, he leaves a sister, Cynthia, and her partner James Feeney, of Philadelphia, Pa.; and many devoted friends.

David had a beautiful soul and immense zest for life. He will be deeply missed.

A celebration of life will be planned for a later date, continuing on COVID restrictions.

### Michael Wilfrid Sheldon

KENT — Michael Wilfrid Sheldon of Kent passed away at home peacefully after a prolonged battle with cancer at the age of 75.

He was born Sept. 30, 1946, in Lynn, Mass., the son of the late Merna (Meekin) and Wilfrid Sheldon.

He graduated from Danbury High School in 1964 then served four years as a United States Marine, including a tour in Vietnam.

On Dec. 28, 1968, he married Linda Menti at the Congregational Church in Bethel, Conn.

Michael's passion for literature drove him to earn a bachelor's degree in English from Western Connecticut State University.

The couple moved to Kent in 1977 to raise their family of five children. For 30 years Michael was the sole owner of his

concrete construction business, retiring in 2007.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his five children, Matthew Sheldon, Marnie Miller and her husband, Todd, Megan Romanoff and her husband, Alex, Luke Sheldon and his wife, Meadow, and Nathan Sheldon and his wife, Beth; his sisters, Melanie and Olivia Sheldon; his grandchildren, Olivia, Madeleine and Samantha Sheldon, Maxwell, Charlotte and Peter Miller, Mason and Luke Romanoff, Anders and Felix Sheldon and Avery Sheldon.

He was predeceased by his brother, Scott Sheldon.

The family has decided to have a private graveside service and requests that any family and friends who wish to show their sympathy make a contribution in Mike's name to the American Cancer Society.

### Mary Agnus (Towers) Laidman

SALISBURY — Mary Agnus (Towers) Laidman, 97, died Jan. 1, 2022. She was the wife for 42 years of Dr. Herbert Andrew Laidman, who predeceased her in 1987.

Mary was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Jan. 31, 1924, the daughter of the late Mary (Campbell) and Daniel John Towers.

She graduated from Prospect Heights Hospital with an R.N. degree in 1945 and then attended Columbia University, where she received a B.S. in Nursing. Mary was a nurse for many years in the greater metro New York area.

Later in life, she attended the Westchester School of Counseling and Psychotherapy, where she received a degree in addiction counseling. Mary worked for more than 12 years at Serenity Hill, later Parkside Lodge (now Mountainside) in North Canaan. She developed and ran the Family Program there and was the assistant manager.

She was also a volunteer for more than 12 years at Sharon Hospital as a patient representative.

She was an avid swimmer and a longtime member of the Kilpatrick Athletic Center in Great Barrington, where she swam three to four times a week and developed a group of close

### Christina (Lang) Assael

MILLBROOK — Christina (Lang) Assael, 75, passed away Dec. 21, 2021, at her home in Millbrook.



Christina was born June 15, 1946, in Karlshamn, Sweden, a daughter of Elsa Charlotta and Gosta Robert Lang. She graduated with an International Baccalaureate in Modern Languages. Moving abroad in 1968, she began a career as a model and commercial actress in London and Paris, followed by New York City, for a span of 13 years.

She then spent close to five years at Sotheby's, New York, as liaison to top clients, as well as earning a Certificate in Interior Design from the New York School of Interior Design. Upon leaving Sotheby's, she entered into her own business as a Private Advisor and Agent in Fine Art and Antiques.

She married Salvador J. Assael in 1991. They had two children. During their marriage she was active in philanthropy.

After her husband's death in April 2011, she took over the family business in cultured pearls and precious stones as president and

CEO of Assael, Inc., New York City. Most recently she lived in Millbrook with her children.

She served as a board member for the American Friends of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, American-Scandinavian Foundation, Annette Urso Rickel Family Foundation, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, The Cosmopolitan Club, Foreign Policy Association, Indian Mountain School, Karolinska Institutet, Kildonan School, The Millbrook School, Natural Resources Defense Council, Network 20/20, New York Council for the Humanities and World Childhood Foundation.

Christina fought passionately for the causes she believed in, to create a fairer, greener and more just society. She had a deep love of animals, kept horses, donkeys, sheep, cows and chickens at her home for many years and always had a dog by her side.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts should be made in honor of Christina Lang Assael to Greenpeace or Glioblastoma Foundation.

### Camille Ann Socci

MILLERTON — Camille Ann Socci, 76, a 10-year resident of Millerton and formerly a longtime Wingdale, N.Y., resident died Thursday, Dec. 23, 2021, at Danbury Hospital following a lengthy illness.



Mrs. Socci worked as a therapy aide at the former Harlem Valley Psychiatric Center in

Wingdale for many years while raising and caring for her family.

Born Dec. 16, 1945, in Stamford, Conn., she was the daughter of the late Gertrude G. (Cruciano) and Frank V. Marciano.

On July 18, 1970, at Sacred Heart Church in Stamford, Conn., she married Mario Socci Sr. Their loving marriage lasted over 51 years. Mr. Socci survives at his home in Millerton.

Camille was a lady with a great sense of humor. Her comforting and accepting nature was something that her family and close friends were profoundly grateful for.

She became "Mom" to many of her sons' friends over the years and was a doting "Nana" and "Nina" to her beloved grandchildren.

Camille enjoyed baking and sewing in her spare time and she was also an avid reader. She will

be dearly missed by her loving family and many friends.

In addition to her beloved husband, Mario Sr., Camille is survived by her two loving sons and their spouses, Mario Socci Jr. and his wife, Monica, of Wingdale and James Socci and his wife, Heather, of Millerton; her beloved grandchildren, Angela Socci and her fiancé, Ronny Johnson, Conchetta Socci, Luciano Socci and Giuseppe Socci; her dear sister, Deborah Lagan and her husband, Frank, of Stamford; her sister, Sophie Bufalini and her husband, Vince, of Apopka, Fla.; and her brother, Michael V. Marciano and his wife, Joyce.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, Dec. 30, at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton, the Rev. William Mayhew officiating. In accordance with Camille's wishes, cremation followed at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the North East-Millerton Library, 75 Main St., Millerton, NY 12546. To send flowers, plant a tree in Camille's memory or send an online condolence, please visit [www.conklinfuneralhome.com](http://www.conklinfuneralhome.com).

Survivors include her children, Sophia and Robert Lang Assael of Millbrook, Edward Opoku of Arizona; her sister, Pia Lang of Vaxjo, Sweden; and numerous loving nieces, nephews, extended family, great friends and her loyal staff.

She was predeceased by her

husband, Salvador Assael; and her parents.

A memorial tribute and time for remembrances to celebrate Christina's life will be at a later date. In keeping with her wishes, the rite of cremation has been accorded. Allen Funeral Homes in Millbrook has been entrusted with her services.

### Thomas F. Healy III

MILLERTON — Thomas F. Healy III, 63, passed on to be with the Lord on the evening of Dec. 27, 2021, at the Kaplan Family Hospice Residence in Newburgh, N.Y.

Born Feb. 25, 1958, in Sharon, he was the son of the late Kathleen C. and Thomas F. Healy. Tom attended school in Pine Plains in his early years and was a graduate of Webutuck High School in Amenia.

Mr. Healy lived a challenging, yet simple, yet inspiring adult life battling illness. Despite his life challenges, he will be remembered as a quiet, peaceful man with a friendly demeanor, his hair only slowly changing to gray, loving to take walks and always ready to share time with his favorites, a cup of

coffee or a can of Coke. Tom did abide.

Mr. Healy is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, James Healy and Thanh Nguyen of Fort Worth, Texas; his nephew, Matthew Goodacre of Lakeville; and his nieces, Tanya, Cynthia and Olivia, all of Texas.

A graveside service and burial took place on Dec. 31, at Evergreen Cemetery in Pine Plains, the Rev. William Mayhew officiating. Memorial donations may be made to MHA of Dutchess County, 253 Mansion St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton. To send an online condolence to the family, please visit [www.conklinfuneralhome.com](http://www.conklinfuneralhome.com).

## Worship Services

Week of January 9, 2022

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

<p><b>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.</b> 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Online worship, Sundays at 10:00 a.m. <a href="http://www.salisburyucc.org">www.salisburyucc.org</a> Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>	<p><b>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon</b> 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 <a href="http://www.christchurchsharon.org">www.christchurchsharon.org</a></p>
<p><b>St. John's Episcopal Church</b> 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 <a href="http://www.stjohnssalisbury.org">www.stjohnssalisbury.org</a> 860-435-9290</p>	<p><b>St. Thomas Episcopal Church</b> 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-373-9167 <a href="http://www.stthomasamenia.com">www.stthomasamenia.com</a> A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p><b>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC</b> 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 <a href="http://www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational">www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational</a> 860-824-7232</p> <p><b>FISHES &amp; LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH</b> is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm &amp; Thursday 12-2 pm <a href="http://www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org">www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</a></p>	<p><b>Trinity Episcopal Church</b> 484 Lime Rock Rd., Lime Rock In person services on Sundays 8:00 and 10:30 A.M. Livestream at 10:30 am <a href="http://www.trinitylimerock.org">www.trinitylimerock.org</a> The Rev. Heidi Truax <a href="mailto:trinity@trinitylimerock.org">trinity@trinitylimerock.org</a> (860) 435-2627</p>
<p><b>The Sharon United Methodist Church</b> 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer Pastor Sun Yong Lee 860-364-5634 <a href="mailto:sharonumc5634@att.net">sharonumc5634@att.net</a></p>	<p><b>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT</b> Join our virtual Zoom service on Sunday, January 9 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi <a href="mailto:atjokialoi@gmail.com">atjokialoi@gmail.com</a> All are Welcome</p>
<p><b>Promised Land Baptist Church</b> 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! <a href="http://www.promisedlandbaptist.org">www.promisedlandbaptist.org</a></p>	<p><b>The Lakeville United Methodist Church</b> 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Pastor Joy Veronesi 860-435-9496 <a href="mailto:Lakevillemethodist@snet.net">Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</a></p>
<p><b>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall</b> Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Email Rev. Mary Gates at: <a href="mailto:mngates125@gmail.com">mngates125@gmail.com</a> for an invitation to the Zoom service If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone. We hope you will join us!</p>	<p><b>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH</b> Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville <b>MASS SCHEDULE</b> Saturday Vigil 5 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church <b>DAILY MASS SCHEDULE</b> Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p><b>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church</b> 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. <a href="http://www.thsmithfieldchurch.org">www.thsmithfieldchurch.org</a> 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p><b>UCC in CORNWALL</b> Congregational Worship Sunday, 10 am Cornwall Village Meeting House 8 Bolton Hill Rd., Cornwall Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 FB - UCC in Cornwall Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p><b>SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH</b> 860-927-3003 The Churches of Sacred Heart, Kent St. Bernard, Sharon St. Bridget, Cornwall Bridge <b>MASS SCHEDULE</b> SATURDAY VIGIL 4 PM - St. Bridget SUNDAY MASSES 8 AM - St. Bernard 10 AM - Sacred Heart WEEKDAY MASSES Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday &amp; First Friday 9 AM - Sacred Heart</p>	<p><b>Sharon Congregational</b> 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website <a href="http://sharoncongregationalchurch.org">sharoncongregationalchurch.org</a> for current online Bible studies and Sunday services Join us in our fellowship hall for in-person Bible study, Thursday, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Contact us at 860-364-5002 or <a href="mailto:info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org">info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</a></p>
<p><b>Canaan United Methodist Church</b> 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 <a href="mailto:canaanumc@gmail.com">canaanumc@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church</b> 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 <a href="http://allsaintsofamerica.us">allsaintsofamerica.us</a></p>
<p><b>Arnold's Garage</b> 24 HOUR TOWING/YOUR ONE-STOP GARAGE ASE CERTIFIED QUALITY SERVICE &amp; REPAIRS HEAVY DUTY TRUCK REPAIR Your Local Certified Emission Testing Station Arnold Agar Jr. Master Automotive &amp; Heavy Duty Truck Technician 2 North Elm Street N. Canaan, CT 06018</p>	<p><b>Millerton United Methodist Church</b> 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st &amp; 3rd Sunday of each month at 10:00 A.M. 518-789-3138</p>

For another obituary, see Page A3.

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**MPD** *Continued from Page A1***Is money the issue?**

But as Veeder said in the Dec. 23 Millerton News, he has a hard time believing the mayor and the board when they say the changes are based on money.

"Since I have been running the department, we have been under budget every single year," he was quoted saying in December. "It's not a budgetary thing at all."

Village Clerk and Treasurer Kelly Kilmer explained previ-

ously that for Millerton's current fiscal year of June 1 through May 31 of 2022, the MPD budget comes to \$115,000.

The town of North East contracts with the village for police services and contributed a portion of the MPD's budget for 2022, which came to \$26,500. That reflects an annual increase of \$500.

**Eager to be full-timers?**

Najdek has made other changes since being elected

mayor in June 2021. This past summer she and the Village Board announced the MPD would no longer be allowed to recruit new officers to send to the police training academy, but would only be allowed to hire seasoned officers. Since then no new officers have been hired.

Veeder said the move was too limiting for a small, part-time force like Millerton's, which offers low pay and few benefits. He added all who work at the MPD hold down jobs elsewhere to pay their bills, "most full time."

He was frank when adding that if given the opportunity, most officers would choose to work in the MPD full time.

"Absolutely. If the Millerton Village Board and North East Town Board decided to make us a full-time agency, our officers that we currently have — not all — but most of them — could be full time," said Veeder. "With full time, too, there are age requirements, and not all of the older guys could be full time, but younger guys, including myself, could go full time."

In September, Veeder said the department had an average of 30 to 50 calls a month, an uptick from previous sum-

mers. As 2022 begins, that high call volume remains.

He added community members ask him regularly why Millerton doesn't have a full-time force.

"A lot of people reach out to me in support of the police department and say, 'Thanks for what you do; we're glad you're here; we need a full-time agency.' We hear a lot of good things," he said this past summer. "But not everyone likes the police."

At the time he was worried that included the mayor and some trustees, whom he feared were trying to dismantle the MPD.

The mayor said at year's end those fears were unwarranted.

"Not at all. I don't have an issue with having the police department," said Najdek. "I think having a local police department can be invaluable... in ways that having a larger department might not necessarily be. A local police department knows its residents, knows its business owners in the community, knows what life is like in the village and in the surrounding town."

**History of DWI patrol**

Yet she added "a lot of things" have been brought to her attention about a "kind of hunting behavior" from officers following drivers, "looking to pull people over," which she said "is not necessarily community

policing."

Najdek added it's been a years' long pattern of overly aggressive policing, and that she continues to hear from people who "have not necessarily been drunk driving. I had two conversations this week; one from one person who hasn't had a drink in 30 years."

She said the driver was grilled by a Millerton officer.

"That's not the first time I've heard of that," said the mayor. "I'm not saying those types of things don't happen everywhere... But I believe our department has a reputation of being very aggressive with stops and pulling people over and following people 3 or 4 miles. To me that's looking for something as opposed to [coming across something]... maybe for the good; you're trying to be proactive about it."

Yet Najdek said she thinks the department's reputation for having a confrontational style of DWI patrolling could be preventing people from coming to Millerton to dine, shop and go to the movies.

"One-hundred percent," she said. "I have people say to me, 'Do you still have your police department? We stopped coming to Millerton years ago; it's not a place to drive though.' I want my community just as safe as any other community, but I don't want it a place where

people don't feel comfortable going."

Najdek added that some drivers told her when on roadways late at night "they don't feel as nervous with seeing the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office [DCSO] deputies or New York State Police [NYS] troopers. They feel more nervous with local police, and it should kind of be the opposite, shouldn't it?"

**Jan. 6 meeting**

The Millerton/North East Police Committee was also present at the Village Board meeting on Dec. 13, to plan for a meeting in this month. That meeting is set for Thursday, Jan. 6, at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

For the Zoom link and other details, contact the village clerk at 518-789-4489, clerk@villageofmillerton.com or go to www.villageofmillerton.net.

Committee Chairman and Village Trustee Matt Hartzog stressed the committee's role is to deal with police reforms, and has nothing to do with if the MPD continues on as an entity. That, he said, is a Village Board decision.

Committee member and North East Town Councilman Ralph Fedele, meanwhile, said the Dec. 13 Village Board meeting that addressed the MPD and its future was "not pleasant."

**Forum might help**

Fedele added his goal is for the joint committee to "find out what the people want out of their police department, and if they feel we are getting value out of taxpayer money."

He added there were a couple of residents present on Dec. 13 eager to form a citizen's police committee to ensure the police reform enacted by the village, on orders from former Governor Andrew Cuomo, are being followed.

Fedele said a public forum might be in order.

"But the danger is when you ask for a public meeting, only those people who are interested will show up, so that could mean all of these activists," he said.

"So you won't find out what the average person in the town wants. I want to make sure we find out what the average person in town wants, not only what these select people want."

**FIRE** *Continued from Page A1*

jured at the scene."

The fire was placed under control at 1:13 a.m. and all units were back in service by 9:30 a.m.

Although there were neighboring homes nearby, Watson said none were damaged by the blaze on Scribner Road.

He added that the house was completely destroyed by the fire, and nothing was left standing by the time the volunteer firefighters had put out the flames.

When asked how conditions were fighting this particular house fire on New Year's Eve morning, Watson said they were

"average," and that he was grateful no civilians or fire personnel were hurt while the inferno was being extinguished.

The Millerton Fire Company and the North East Fire District added "they would like to thank Millerton Fire's Support, Talk of The Towne Deli, Frank Duncan of Northwest Lawn and Landscape and Chris Stalker of Hillsdale Repair. A big thank you also to Dutchess 911 dispatchers and coordinators CC-14, CC-16 and CC-51. And last but not least the 40 volunteer firefighters who answered the alarm."

**REGENTS EXAMS** *Continued from Page A1*

conclusion of a course of study or make-up program shall be exempt from the requirements pertaining to passing a corresponding Regents Examination to be issued a diploma."

To qualify for the exemption, students must either be enrolled in a course that would ordinarily culminate with a January 2022 Regents exam and earn credit for their course; be prepared to take a Regents exam to graduate at the end of the first school semester; or complete a make-up program to earn course credit. One of these requirements must be completed by the end of the first semester of the 2021-22 school year.

No decisions have been made at this time regarding the Re-

gents exams and other state assessment programs scheduled for June and August.

NYSED will issue additional guidance at some point in January to answer any questions students, families or administrators might have.

"Given the unevenness of this school year with the pandemic still ongoing and the acute social-emotional needs of our students, canceling the January Regents exams is the right choice," the New York State United Teachers union said in a statement issued on Dec. 1, thanking those involved "for recognizing that our educators are still assessing their students, preparing them to receive their diplomas and set-

ting them up for success after graduation without this round of state exams."

Webutuck Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani weighed in on the decision after it was made public.

"It's the right answer right now," he said, taking into account the spike in COVID-19 cases across the state and in Dutchess County, especially with the new omicron variant and the uncertainty of whether students will be able to participate in the Regents exams without paying penalties from the pandemic. "It's the right idea to hold off and let them take it in June."

For further information, go to www.nysed.gov.

**MEDAL OF HONOR** *Continued from Page A1*

He even earned a partial scholarship to Howard University. When his partial scholarship ran out, Johnson joined the Army.

Many expected for Johnson to go far in life, to exceed expectations. He may have, but he never got the chance because Johnson died a hero at Outpost Harry, the Choran Valley in 1953, a casualty of the Korean War. It was on June 12, 1953, just two months shy of his 21st birthday. Johnson is buried in Millbrook.

He was a private first-class, in the 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. His specialty was as a light weapons assault crewman.

What happened to Johnson was recounted many times over the years by a fellow soldier who was with him that night, who was actually a classmate from Arlington, who only recently passed away. Donald Dingee said he and Johnson were in a foxhole when a grenade was thrown in, severely injuring Dingee's foot. Johnson carried his comrade to safety.

Dingee said he told Johnson to stay with him, not to go back into the thick of the battle. But Johnson said there were other wounded soldiers who needed help, so he left, never to return. Records show Johnson went back to help others to safety; he died trying to protect eight wounded soldiers while holding off the enemy.

The people who knew Johnson never forget him or his heroic acts. Yet his country seemed to. He wasn't recognized until years later, when he was posthumously awarded several medals.

Although his brave actions saved lives he wasn't honored for his valor until 2011, when he was awarded his first medal years after his death. His fellow soldiers said it was because he was Black.

That first honor was the Silver Star, followed by the Purple

Heart, the Combat Infantry Badge and the Marksmanship Badge. He was also awarded the Korean Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and both the Republic of Korea Presidential Citation and the Republic of Korea Service Medal. He was also awarded the United Nations Service Medal, the Army Presidential Unit Citation and the Army Good Conduct Medal.

There were other honors as well. On Oct. 14, 2011, close to 1,000 people, including veterans, friends and family, paid tribute to Johnson at Arlington High School, when Brigadier Gen. Jeffrey Phillips posthumously awarded Johnson the Silver Star for gallantry in action against an enemy of the country.

Johnson's story has been told by various media over many years. In a program presented at the National Memorial Day Concert, Johnson was played by actor Dennis Haysbert in Washington, D.C., in 2010.

A documentary made in 2011 tells of the battle that cost Johnson his life entitled, "Hold at All Cost."

The Millbrook Village Board meeting minutes from July 13, 2010, mention residents John Kading and Alec Pandaleon suggesting the relocation of the Charles Johnson Memorial plaque to a site on Village Hall grounds.

Arlington High School has performed plays highlighting Johnson's heroic actions. He is recognized annually on Veterans Day, too, when fresh flags are put on the graves of local veterans buried with him at Nine Partners Cemetery.

On Aug. 26, 2014, at Fort Stewart, Ga., which is the largest U.S. military installation east of the Mississippi River, a fitness center dedicated to Johnson says it "will serve as a testament to the battlefield heroics of an

Arlington High School graduate and Korean War hero." It is named the Pfc. Charles R. Johnson Fitness Center.

So while Johnson has not been forgotten nor his heroism gone unrecognized, it has taken years for this country to bestow the honors and medals due him, many believe due to the color of his skin and the racial tensions of the time.

For years many have fought to get Johnson the nation's highest honor: the Medal of Honor. It was long denied due to the statute of limitations that states the medal must be given within five years of the heroic act.

To right that injustice, U.S. Rep. Antonio Delgado (D-NY-19) introduced legislation in Congress last year to let Johnson to finally receive the honor.

On New Year's Eve, Friday, Jan. 31, Delgado announced his pursuit for justice in Johnson's name had finally succeeded.

"My legislation making Johnson eligible to receive the medal beyond the five-year time limit passed the House, Senate and was signed into law by the President as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022," he stated in his weekly email recap to his constituents, calling it "an injustice that has taken almost 70 years to correct."

Former U.S. Rep. Chris Gibson began the Pentagon review of Johnson's case, which Delgado continued. The congressman secured a promise from Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin that he would ask President Biden to recommend Johnson for the medal. The president did so last week, a special holiday present just for the late Harlem Valley vet, it seems.

That means Charlie Johnson will be bestowed the Medal of Honor and the world can finally recognize him for the hero his friends and family in Millbrook have always known him to be.

**A YEAR IN REVIEW** *Continued from Page A1*

all focused their attention on improving broadband. All pursued federal grants to get faster and more secure internet service.

They also all pursued ways to install central wastewater systems — key to improve economic development. The Millerton and Millbrook Village Boards are also looking into wastewater systems.

Housing was another major issue; the Amenia Housing Board and the Tri-Town Coalition, an affordable housing group representing Amenia, North East/Millerton and Pine Plains, actively worked to create affordable housing in northeastern Dutchess County.

There will be new housing in Pine Plains, if its Planning Board approves the Durst Organiza-

tion's revamped proposal for a 237-lot conservation subdivision. The board has been reviewing Durst's Hudson Valley Project since the spring. The project was proposed more than a decade ago, originally as the Carvel Property Project.

The Pine Plains Planning Board heard complaints this year, too, from neighbors of the Willow Roots food pantry about traffic on North Main Street during Saturday distribution days. After a long and contentious back and forth, Willow Roots moved its distribution center to 7730 South Main St. and had a ribbon-cutting ceremony in March.

Look for Part II of *The Year in Review* in next week's issue of *The Millerton News*.

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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

## Gingerbread Houses That Are Adorable and Earnest

Gingerbread season is over for now, but the memories and calories linger on. Perhaps the happiest use for these delicious cookies — for those of us who worry about gingerbread overload on our hips — is the decorative gingerbread house that can be admired but must not be eaten.

The town of Kent, Conn., wrapped up its gingerbread festival at the end of December. For photos and a list of the winning entries, go to [www.kentct-gingerbreadfest.com](http://www.kentct-gingerbreadfest.com).

Salisbury, Conn., hosted a smaller-scale gingerbread house competition through its recreation commission. The entries were adorable and earnest. The following prizes were awarded:

- First place: Anra Armillo and Molly Gochman for The Snowy House
  - Second place: Aeven, Oona Mascavage and Nana, for The Gingerbread Village
  - Third place: Emily, Aman and Carmela Egan for Egans A-Frames.
- Cynthia Hochswender



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Not every gingerbread house has to be a mansion. Perhaps it's even more appropriate to make a ski chalet, as the Egan family members did for the Salisbury, Conn., gingerbread competition.

STREAMING: ED FERMAN

## Movie Musicals: 'More Stars Than There Are In Heaven'

The Golden Age of MGM musicals began about 1935 with Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers in "Top Hat" and ended around 1958 with Vincente Minnelli's "Gigi." Covering this cornucopia of treasures is beyond the scope of this column. Fortunately, MGM did it for me in this 1974 film celebrating its 50th anniversary with highlights from its musicals: **"That's Entertainment."**

Your hosts are Frank Sinatra, Gene Kelly, Liz Taylor, Jimmy Stewart, Fred Astaire, Bing Crosby, Mickey Rooney and others, who stroll around MGM's shabby backlot, where many of the movies were made.

Here is a brief sample of the more than 85 musical numbers they introduce:

- Nelson Eddy and Jeanette MacDonald, "Indian Love Call"; Debbie Reynolds, "Aba Daba Honeymoon"; Esther Williams, "Million Dollar Mermaid" — couldn't sing or dance but she was beautiful and could hold her breath for

three minutes.

- Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra and Jules Manshin, "New York, New York" from "On the Town"; Bing and Frank, "Well, Did You Evah" from "High Society"; Maurice Chevalier, "Thank Heaven for Little Girls" from "Gigi."

- William Warfield, "Ol' Man River" from "Showboat"; Donald O'Connor, "Make 'Em Laugh" from "Singin' in the Rain"; Judy Garland, "Over the Rainbow" from the most popular movie in film history, the first in Technicolor, the enduring "The Wizard of Oz."

- The incomparable Fred Astaire, dancing with Ginger, with Cyd Charisse, "Dancing in the Dark," from "The Band Wagon," with a hat rack in "Royal Wedding," and with Eleanor Powell in an amazing tap dance from "Broadway Melody of 1940," after which Sinatra remarks: "You can wait around and hope, but you'll never see the likes of this again."

The finale is the beauti-

ful "An American in Paris Ballet" with Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron.

"That's Entertainment" can be seen on HBO Max. Two sequels are also available, from 1976 and 1994. Hollywood musicals are still made of course, although they are quite different from the MGM movies, which projected pure happiness. These stories are more complicated, touching, even tragic.

Most folks loved "La La Land" (2016), including me. Some dissented, arguing that the stars weren't big enough. Maybe, but Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone are charming and graceful enough to pull off Damien Chazelle's almost-Oscar-winning film.

It opens with a terrific MGM-style production: Young dreamers stuck in traffic jump out of their cars and dance on the freeway. Then it settles into a melancholy tale of an aspiring actress and a jazz pianist who fall in love. Justin Hurwitz's score won many awards, as did his

songs "City of Dreams" and "The Fools Who Dream."

Stream "La La Land" on Hulu or rent it on Amazon.

Bradley Cooper's 2018 remake of "A Star Is Born" is an even better musical, mainly due to Lady Gaga, a true star who can really sing. Cooper isn't bad either.

This is the story of a doomed marriage between country singer Jackson Maine and his singer-songwriter wife, Ally. Ally is on her way up and Jackson on his way down. Is there a sadder scene in film than the one of Jackson's dog, Charlie, lying in front of the garage door?

Stream "A Star Is Born" on HBO Max, rent it on Amazon.

Each of the above films cost about \$40 million to produce. The budget for the 2007 film "Once" was about \$150,000. It was later produced on Broadway, winning the 2012 Tony for Best Musical. It tells the story of two struggling musicians in Dublin, played by Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova. They also wrote the music, and their song "Falling Slowly" won the 2008 Oscar for Best Original Song. Do not miss this small treasure.

"Once" can be seen on Amazon.

## A LOVELY NEW BOOK TO READ BY THE FIRE

The delightful but hectic mania of the holiday season is now over and we can return to quarantining peacefully in our own homes, perhaps enjoying a cup of tea by the fire while reading a good book.

Perhaps all the books you received as gifts were in an audible or digital format. That's lovely but not quite as homely and

old-fashioned as a printed tome. In particular, printed books that are wonderful to curl up with by the fire are ones that were written by your friends and neighbors.

We are featuring a few such titles in these special articles, in which we also welcome a new and we hope better year.

— Cynthia Hochswender

LOCAL AUTHORS: HUNTER O. LYLE

## The History and the Thrills of Ski Jumping in New England

Every February, the Salisbury Winter Sports Association (SWSA) hosts Jumpfest at Satre Hill in Salisbury, Conn., a weekend-long competition for ski jumpers. While she will not be competing in the event's 96th rendition in 2022, seasoned jumper Ariel (Picton) Kobayashi's book details the winter sport and its impact on the Northeast.

Kobayashi, whose new book is "Ski Jumping in the Northeast," is no stranger to Jumpfest. While she had been skiing since she was 3 years old, Kobayashi's jumping career started when she attended Jumpfest at the age of 9.

Part of the attraction for her, even at that young age, was Salisbury.

"It's an awesome community and it was great to be a part of that community. You really get to know everyone."

Kobayashi started competing throughout the Northeast and even competed in Anchorage, Alaska, and Steamboat Springs, Colo., during the Junior Olympic competitions in 2003 and 2004 — events which are now called Junior Nationals and Junior Championships. This year's Junior Nationals will also be held in Salisbury, at Satre Hill, from Feb. 22 to 26.

Eventually, however, it just became too difficult for Kobayashi to get training and practice time.

"Ski jumping is largely a volunteer-run sport

in New England," she explained. "You need volunteers to get the hills ready. Most of the coaches are also volunteers."

Eventually, she said, "the only time I was able to get time to practice was on the weekends. It became really hard to advance in the sport."

Although she had been a very successful jumper, Kobayashi took a hiatus when she was 15 — but returned to the sport several years later, while living in Vermont. She began to watch jump competitions and her love of the sport was rekindled.

She decided to return to the Northwest Corner of Connecticut in 2016, to coach young Salisbury jumpers. She stuck with it for four years, but then moved to New Hampshire and started a family.

"Ski Jumping in the Northeast," began as a senior project while she was a student at the State University of New York at Purchase. Over the years, it developed into a history of the sport here in New England, with nitty gritty details of the competitions.

"I hope this book inspires more people to get involved in ski jumping, as a volunteer or as a jumper," she said. "It's a tight-knit but welcoming community to be a part of. I think that's why I love the sport so much."

The book will be useful for the many fans of ski jumping in the Tri-state region — but perhaps it will be most valuable to those people who have never come out to the hill in Salisbury to watch the annual jump competition. This year's Salisbury Winter Sports Association Jumpfest will be held from Feb. 11 to 13. Keep an eye on the website at [www.jumpfest.org](http://www.jumpfest.org) for the schedule and for details on COVID-19 precautions.

"Ski Jumping in the Northeast" by Ariel (Picton) Kobayashi can be found at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and [BarnesandNoble.com](http://BarnesandNoble.com) and can be ordered through local bookstores.



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LOCAL AUTHORS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

# Newts, Salamanders and the Dangers of Human Over-Development

Anyone who is either a careful reader of The Lakeville Journal or an attentive student of life in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut has probably heard the name Michael Klemens before — perhaps as an expert on the elusive bog turtle, perhaps as the strict-but-fair chairman of the Salisbury, Conn., Planning and Zoning Commission. He has also been a member of Connecticut's Siting Council, which has final say on the location of monoliths such as cell towers and wind turbines. Before coming to Connecticut, he was the director of program development for the Wildlife Conservation Society, which operates New York's Bronx Zoo.



PHOTO FROM CONSERVATION OF REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS IN CONNECTICUT

There is much that we know about Michael Klemens but much more that most of us have yet to learn — including the depth of his knowledge of herpetology.

Klemens is a polymath who knows a great deal about a lot of things, but probably the topic he knows most about is the study of reptiles and amphibians.

There have been times in the past decade or so when Klemens has been called to offer an expert opinion on the possible presence of bog turtles (you can see one in the photo above) in an area where someone wants to

build something. Opponents of a building project will often cite the presence of the federally protected and adorable reptiles as a reason why building can't continue. The bog turtle is as powerful a deterrent to construction in this part of the world as archaeological remains might be in another region.

But Klemens knows about much more than just the furtive lives led by the tiny turtles. He has written books, studies and management plans on these and other creatures for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies — including, now, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, which has just released a 305-page study of the "Conservation of Reptiles and Amphibians in Connecticut."

Klemens is the lead author on a team that also includes Hank J. Gruner, Dennis P. Quinn and Eric R. Davison.

While the topic might sound specialized, and it is, the main message of the book is one that impacts us all. In his decades of study, Klemens discovered that, more than anyone had realized before, human activity and building has a startling impact on the health of all creatures small (turtles, snakes, frogs) and great (humans). What's bad for the animals that creep through our vernal pools and fens is bad for the "greater" animals that build houses and roads that destroy breeding grounds, migration patterns and habitats.

While acting as a catalogue of every species in the state (salamanders, newts, skinks and snakes, turtles, frogs and more), the book also points out the dangers to their habitats and suggests ways in which humans can not only reduce their negative impacts but perhaps even be helpful to the creatures that contribute so much to the beauty of this part of

the world. "Since human activities so profoundly affect the natural world, why can't the human intelligence and technology which drive destructive trends in land use, be better applied or retooled through education and information to create human landscapes that are more in harmony with the natural world?" he asks in his introduction to the book, which was published in late 2021.

"In my work, I often describe the problems that have occurred because I believe that to change how society deals with its responsibilities to the natural world it must first come to understand the problems that past land-use patterns and practices have created. Only from the confidence that is engendered by that understanding can the impetus to create better models of sustainability and stewardship find solid footing."

The book can be ordered online from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection bookstore, <https://www.ctdeepstore.com/Conservation-of-Amphibians-and-Reptiles-in-Connecticut-882.htm>. The cost is \$54.95 and money from sales of the book help protect amphibians and reptiles. The lessons presented in the book are also relevant, of course, to areas outside Connecticut.



BOOK COVER COURTESY CLARION

Jacquie Lynn of West Cornwall, Conn., has written "Space Matters" to help young children understand that there is more to the world than meets the eye.

LOCAL AUTHORS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

# Accentuate the Negative — and Learn About Space

Architects and designers often talk about the "negative space" in a room or in a house — not in the sense of "Gee, there's so much negative energy here, we'd better do some feng shui sage burning," but more in the sense of "every room is a combination of positive space (where there are things) and negative space (where there is nothing but air and, well, space)."

For creators of buildings and interiors, the negative spaces are just as important as the positive spaces, in the same way that blacks and whites are just as important to a painter as colors. If you think about it (but not so hard that your head hurts), it's obvious that every room and every building must have empty/negative space as well as full/positive space in order for it to be hospitable to humans.

Jacquie Lynn is neither an architect nor an interior designer, and she also isn't actually a children's book author, but none of that stopped her from writing a new book for children about how to think of space. A resident of West Cornwall, Conn., Lynn (who some will know by her married name, Jacquie Schiller) defines what it is to be an artist: She is constantly exploring new ideas from new angles, and sharing those ideas through a

variety of different media: photography, jewelry, parties, a book for children.

"Space Matters" is an introduction to the idea of negative space, which will no doubt open the minds of some young readers in the same way that psychedelic drugs might unlock the minds of adults. In my opinion, this is a wonderful thing; it's never too soon for children to realize that the world is much more interesting than they had at first realized.

Developmental psychologists offer fascinating insights into how the brain develops and how babies and toddlers learn about, for example, object permanence (which they experience when someone plays peek-a-boo with them). For the brain that has only recently learned that if a child crawls to the edge of a table, it might drop a few feet down to the ground, there is no doubt that a book about negative space, no matter how cute and adorable, will be deeply and wonderfully mind altering.

Reviews of "Space Matters" praise it as playful and witty, not just in the text but also in the illustrations by Lydia Nichols. It is widely available from vendors as diverse as Amazon.com and Target to the Wish House gift shop in West Cornwall ([www.wishhouse.com](http://www.wishhouse.com)).

LOCAL AUTHORS: PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

# Because Everyone Loves Lawyer Jokes: A Lawyer Writes a Comic Novel

Tom Morrison of Salisbury, Conn., an attorney, has produced a sequel to his comic legal novel "Torts 'R' Us."

The new book, "Please Pass the Torts," continues

the saga of the Peters brothers, Patrick A. (known as "Pap") and Prescott U. (aka "Pup").

This time around the Peters do legal battle with the Russians and the owners of strip clubs, among others.

As before, Morrison has fun with names and acronyms. Readers will be introduced to the Committee on Drugs, Alcohol, Firearms, Tobacco and Yogurt (CODAFTY), stripper Lydia Lowlace, and primatologist Klint A. Kwak, who does business under the sobriquet "Dr. Doolittle."

"Please Pass the Torts"

is available at the Salisbury General Store, Oblong Books in Millerton and from Amazon.

On Wednesday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m., Morrison will give a talk sponsored by Noble Horizons and the Scoville Memorial Library in Salisbury. He will be interviewed by television newsman Bill Littauer of Salisbury, on Zoom. More information and a Zoom link can be found at [www.noblehorizons.org](http://www.noblehorizons.org).

## TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Send items to [calendar@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:calendar@lakevillejournal.com). All entries can be found at [www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar](http://www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar).

### ART

**The Clark Art Museum**, 225 South St., Williamstown, Mass. [www.clarkart.edu](http://www.clarkart.edu)  
Competing Currents: 20th-Century Japanese Prints, through Jan. 30.

**Eckert Fine Art**, 1315 MASS MoCA Way, North Adams, Mass. [www.eckertfineart.com](http://www.eckertfineart.com)  
Gate Keeper: The Art of Hunt Slonem, Nov. 11 through Jan. 8.

### BOOKS

**Hotchkiss Library of Sharon**, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. [www.hotchkisslibrary.org](http://www.hotchkisslibrary.org)  
American History Book Club: A Passion for Nature: The Life of John Muir by Donald Worster, Jan. 19, 10 to 11 a.m. (online).

**Scoville Memorial Library**, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [www.scovillelibrary.org](http://www.scovillelibrary.org)  
Library Book Group led by Claudia Cayne, Jan. 8, 4 to 5 p.m. (in person and online).

### MOVIES

**The Moviehouse**, 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. [www.themoviehouse.net](http://www.themoviehouse.net)  
The Tragedy of Macbeth, opens Jan. 7.

**Stanford Free Library**, 6035 Route 82, Stanfordville, N.Y. [www.stanfordlibrary.org](http://www.stanfordlibrary.org)  
Documentary Film Series: Contemplating Contemporary Art & Culture, every 4th Thursday of the month, meet and greet at 6:45 p.m., film begins at 7 p.m.

### MUSIC

**Close Encounters With Music**, Great Barrington, Mass. [www.cevm.org](http://www.cevm.org)  
Folk and Baroque Concert, Feb. 26, 6 to 7:45 p.m.

### TALKS

**Roeliff Jansen Library**, 9091 Route 22, Hillsdale, N.Y. [www.roelijanlibrary.org](http://www.roelijanlibrary.org)  
History Webinar: Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Jan. 19, 6 to 7:15 p.m. (online).

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48 MAIN STREET, MILLERTON, NY



# Salt Point teen dies in fatal crash on Route 82

By **WHITNEY JOSEPH**  
editor@millertonnews.com

WASHINGTON — Rather than friends and family being able to celebrate Madison Lynch-Dingee's 17th birthday with her on Tuesday, Dec. 28, they turned out instead to say goodbye to her with heavy hearts — Madison forever 16.

The Salt Point teenager died in a two-car fatal crash on State Route 82 in the town of Washington just before 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 21, days before she was to turn 17.

Her parents, Louise M. Lynch and Richard Dingee, said their good-byes to their daughter in the middle of what should have instead been a joyous celebration.

Services were held at the Al-

len Funeral Home in Millbrook on the 28th from 4 to 7 p.m.

A junior at Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie, Madison was an honor student who was fond of many activities, including myriad winter sports, horseback riding, lacrosse and country music.

Madison's school announced on social media that it was offering support services to help students cope with the tragic loss of their classmate and friend.

According to the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office (DCSO), which investigated the accident, a Sheriff's Deputy discovered the crash while on routine patrol on Route 82 near North Shanks Road.

A preliminary investigation

showed that Madison was driving a 2011 Subaru while traveling northbound on Route 82 at "an unsafe speed" while trying to pass a 2016 Acura, according to the DCSO.

The accident report stated the driver of the Acura was unaware Madison was trying to pass and attempted to make a left turn onto North Shanks Road.

It further stated "The Subaru then [struck] the Acura, [exited] the roadway off the western shoulder and ultimately [struck] a tree."

At 16, Madison would have only recently earned her driver's license under New York State law.

According to the Sheriff's Office, Madison passed away at the scene. The occupants of

the Acura were uninjured.

As of the issuance of the police report, no charges had been filed.

Capt. John Watterson of the DCSO stated while the cause of the crash remains under investigation by the Sheriff's Office Crash Investigation Unit and Detective Bureau, at this time unsafe speed on the part of the Subaru appears to be a primary factor.

The Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by the New York State Police, the Dutchess County Medical Examiner, the Millbrook fire department and Northern Dutchess Paramedics. More information may be released as it becomes available.

In addition to her parents, Madison also leaves behind three siblings.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MILLBROOK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mary Flagler Cary left her land to what is now the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, which has made myriad important contributions to the world of science since becoming an independent nonprofit research center in 1993.

## Historical Society archives

### The story of Mary Flagler Cary and her local legacy

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

MILLBROOK — After not having regular meetings since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, the first in-person, indoor meeting of the Millbrook Historical Society (MHS) gathered at the Millbrook Library on Thursday, Nov. 18, for a lively discussion of Mary Flagler Cary.

More than 50 people gathered to hear a talk entitled, "The Artist of the Canoo Hill," by Brad Roeller. He spoke of his experiences working at the Cary Arboretum, which started in 1972. He ended up working there for the next 37 years.

During his time there, Roeller met many acquaintances and employees of Mary Flagler Cary, granddaughter of Henry Flagler.

Flagler, an American industrialist, a founder of Standard Oil and founder of the Florida East Coast Railway, was born right in Hopewell in 1830.

Roeller is a renowned horticulturist, author and Innisfree Garden trustee who has also lent his expertise to such celebrated gardens as the Botanical Gardens and the Altamont Estate.

Flagler, who fell in love with Florida and eventually moved there, spent the majority of his time there until his death in 1910. He left behind a vast estate.

Among the many relatives he left behind was a granddaughter, Mary, who has ties Millbrook.

She married Melbert B. Cary, a graphic artist and founder of the Woolly Whale, a private press that published very specific titles. He also had an amazing collection of books that were donated to the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) after his death.

The Carys had a country estate in Millbrook, which began with one farm and grew from there to the vast acreage we know today as the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies.

The Carys enjoyed their country estate in Millbrook and Mrs. Cary, a well known philanthropist, devoted much of her time to managing the property of close to 2,000 acres after her husband's death in 1941. A quiet and reserved woman, she had a special fondness for the Maple trees on the property.

She was an avid photographer and the property provided her with a wealth of subject matter for taking photos, mostly in black and white, and surprisingly, many Polaroid pictures.

Her love for her property, its trees and the wildlife it supported encouraged her to set up a charitable trust. She bequeathed her estate to an organization involved in conservation and preservation of natural resources and the maintenance of such properties.

Mary Flagler Cary died in 1967 and in 1971 her trustees asked the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) to oversee her property, at that time called the Mary Flagler Cary Arboretum.

In 1983 Gene Likens, who was affiliated with the NYBG, founded the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook as part of the New York Botanical Garden. In 1993 it became an independent nonprofit center for ecological research with Likens as director and president.

Roeller, during his years at the Cary Institute, became acquainted with several local people who knew or worked for the Cary family. He was shown many photographs of the early years at their estate. He was even shown some photos taken by Mrs. Cary.

Even now, more than 50 years after her death, many of the trees standing in the forests of the Cary Institute are among those planted during her day.

There are also many photographs that were taken by her — of the property, of the trees — a history in photos of early conservation efforts.

Today, the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies located at 2801 Sharon Turnpike (Route 44), which once belonged to the Carys, remains an important part of Millbrook's history and of its future.

Cary researchers and scientists study the environment, issues of climate change, infectious disease, freshwater and forest health and urban ecology, as its website ([www.caryinstitute.org](http://www.caryinstitute.org)) describes.

Locals and tourists alike are welcome to visit the vast hiking trails, study the ferns that grow along the ponds and streams and watch the many animals in their natural habitat.

It's safe to say that the spirit of Mary Flagler Cary and her philanthropic ways are alive and well in Millbrook.

For more information and future meetings of the MHS, go to [www.millbrookhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.millbrookhistoricalsociety.org).

## MILLBROOK IN BRIEF

### Support Innisfree and Help Plant a Tree

Innisfree Garden at 362 Tyrrel Road in Millbrook needs to replace more than four dozen mature trees that were lost on July 6 of 2021 during a microburst storm that also damaged other plantings and stonework throughout the nationally renowned garden.

Innisfree was closed for a week during that time while the damage was cleared and

being repaired. The 48 trees need to be replaced; that work will start in spring 2022.

Every dollar counts, and Innisfree is seeking donations.

To donate, go to [www.office@innisfreegarden.org](http://www.office@innisfreegarden.org), and click on Help Plant a Tree.

For more information on Innisfree, go to [www.innisfreegarden.org](http://www.innisfreegarden.org) or call 845-677-8000.

WASHINGTON — The Town of Washington (TOW) Town Board held its final meeting of 2021 on Thursday, Dec. 9, at Town Hall.

#### Fire service

Town Supervisor Gary Ciferri opened the meeting at 6 p.m. and quickly opened a public hearing on the TOW fire contract with the village of Millbrook, for the sum of \$577,833.

The board approved the contract and voted in favor of the arrangement, which is for fire service with the Millbrook Hook and Ladder Co. #1. Millbrook Mayor Tim Collopy requested for the payment to be made in two parts, possibly one in February and one in March. The Town Board said it will comply if possible.

#### Commercial cannabis

A public hearing was then opened regarding a local law to "opt out of allowing cannabis retail dispensaries and on-site consumption sites as authorized under NYS Cannabis Law Article 4."

The law was voted on and passed, meaning the town will not allow marijuana dispensaries or lounges at this time, but may opt in at a later date if it so desires, according to state law.

Former Governor Andrew Cuomo had given municipalities a Dec. 31 deadline to decide if they would permit pot to be sold in dispensaries or smoked in lounges inside their borders. In March of 2021, New York State legalized adult use recreational marijuana.

About 700 or so permits will be issued throughout the state to businesses that want to sell the drug or allow it to be smoked on the premises, in lounges similar to bars where alcohol can be consumed.

#### Guertin Gym

The board then authorized Ciferri to sign the lease for the gymnasium with the village. The TOW Recreation Department

currently leases the Guertin Gym in Village Hall, and provides a number of recreation programs out of that location.

#### Regular business

The board also authorized Ciferri to sign the police contract with the village for shared services, as an officer from the Millbrook Police Department (MPD) attends Town Court when court is in session to provide security.

The Town Board also authorized Ciferri to sign the contract with the Hudson Valley Animal Rescue & Sanctuary Services for 2022 for kennel services to assist the TOW with animal control.

It was requested that the hours for the New York State and Local Retirement System (NYSLRS) Standard Work Day for Appointed and Elected Officials be accepted and posted on the website and bulletin board as required, which was done.

A public hearing was set for Thursday, Jan. 13, regarding the proposed contract for cable service in TOW with Altice.

Bookkeeper to the Supervisor Lois Petrone recommended and proposed several budget adjustments. Revenue from the county for sales tax was more than the expected amount, by roughly \$40,000. It was agreed the money be put toward the Highway Committee.

The Town Clerk's Monthly Report was delayed due to COVID exposure. Town Clerk Mary Alex asked the board schedule the annual organizational meeting, which was set for the regular January meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 13.

Per the New York State Department of Health (DOH), a request was made to reappoint Alex and Deputy Town Clerk Briggs as Vital Registrar and Substitute Vital Registrar through Dec. 31, 2023.

Councilman Stephen Turtlet, liaison to the Recreation Department, said Recreation Director Chelsea Edson wants to apply for grants for a compostable bathroom at the soccer field. He added that Edson was on vacation at the time, but plans for the spring and summer schedule were in the works.

So far, two senior trips have been planned: one for the Casino at Monticello on Feb. 24 and one for a winery on June 4.

Councilman Bob Audia reported on the Town Hall generators, noting there won't be any progress until after the holidays.

#### Bnb penalties

Councilman Michael Murphy, liaison to Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), said there have been some government mandates recently that local bnb owners and

others in the hospitality industry may not be aware of, which he wanted to inform them of.

As of now, there are no local laws on hospitality, said Murphy, but some may be unaware that permits are needed for bnb's.

The councilman said he would like to see the regulations posted for the sake of those in the hospitality business, as fines can reach \$1,000 per day. It may be possible for notices to go out with tax receipts, he said, which are issued beginning in mid-January.

#### Comp plan update

Councilman Joseph Rochfort is a liaison to the Comprehensive Plan Committee. He noted there have been two Zoom focus groups held in December; one on Friday, Dec. 6, for residents and one on Saturday, Dec. 7, for business owners.

The discussions will be studied; though the committee is not ready to share its findings publicly yet. So far, no other groups have been called on to participate, he said.

The Town Board meeting ended at 6:50 p.m. The first Town Board meeting of the New Year will be on Thursday, Jan. 13, at 6 p.m. This will also be a re-organization meeting and a public hearing will be held for cable services.

## Support Local Journalism In Your Community

Dear reader,

When this newspaper made a plea to our readers for support in 2019, The Lakeville Journal Company, publishers of The Lakeville Journal, The Millerton News and [www.tricornernews.com](http://www.tricornernews.com), was at a crossroads. Then, we were looking at drastically cutting costs in order to survive.

Two years later, after two highly successful appeals to our readership for contributions that saved your local community newspapers, this small media company is in a very different place. Your generosity kept us alive, even during a worldwide pandemic, and we were able to apply for and receive tax-exempt status from the IRS as a public charity. Your contributions to The Lakeville Journal Foundation are now tax deductible to the extent permitted under the law. Now it is time to regroup again and make a new plan to take this media company into a successful future.

During COVID-19 shutdowns and restrictions, this company was able to obtain two PPP grants from the U.S. government, which, combined with our readers' generous support, helped us remain in place to report the news of your communities. Your wish for local news is what drives our mission, which publishes in the newspapers every week:

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

We sincerely ask you to be a Community Contributor, donating whatever you can to support local news, to The Lakeville Journal Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization. Unlike the last two years, your donations are now tax deductible within the limits of the law.

Thank you for keeping track of your local news in our publications, and profound gratitude for your support that kept The Lakeville Journal, The Millerton News and [www.tricornernews.com](http://www.tricornernews.com) here for your communities.

*Noreen Doyle*

Noreen Doyle, Chair

*Janet Manko*

Janet Manko, CEO, executive director

The Lakeville Journal Foundation, Inc.

Enclose your check or money order. To donate by credit card, please go to [www.tricornernews.com/contribute](http://www.tricornernews.com/contribute)  
Mail to The Lakeville Journal Foundation, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, Connecticut 06039

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EDITORIAL

# Amenia Wastewater Survey anything but a waste of time

A handful of people in Amenia have been hard at work for a long time, trying to solve the problem of how a business district without a modern central wastewater system can attract more merchants, restaurant owners and other business people to invest in their community.

The simple answer is it can't. Which is why the Amenia Wastewater Committee (AWC), manned by volunteers and chaired by Jim Wright, decided to hire the engineering firm Tighe & Bond to conduct a feasibility study and assist with a Wastewater Survey.

The survey, which went live in early-December, seeks to learn "if a portion of the town would benefit from a community wastewater system."

The AWC distributed the questionnaire to all property owners in Amenia, explaining in a letter that the "area under consideration only covers the center of Amenia, stretching north and south along Route 22, east along [Route] 343, west along [Route] 44."

In other words, the AWC is smartly focusing on a section of town that includes its business district, with the Amenia Post Office, the Amenia Free Library, many of the town's popular antique shops, retail stores, eateries, gas stations, real estate and attorneys' offices and even its well-known drive-in movie theater.

The goal of the survey, according to the AWC? "To map the borders of the wastewater district."

The survey stated that: "A municipal sewage treatment system would address aging, substandard and under-sized septic systems and foster a more vibrant and thriving hamlet area."

The committee added one of its initial acts in 2021 was to contact all business owners in the main hamlet of Amenia to see if they would support the creation of a new wastewater treatment system in the business district. The unanimous response from those business owners: they would.

Now the AWC is in its earliest phase of the feasibility study to see which parts of town would benefit the most from a wastewater system; where it would be most suitable to build a wastewater treatment facility; how much it would cost; and what grants and low-interest loans may be available to help pay for construction.

The committee said while it's focusing on the center of town, it wanted to distribute the surveys town-wide, as all property owners have a stake in the project.

The AWC added in the letter notifying property owners about the survey that it felt it was important "to gauge the needs and interest throughout the entire community and to collect the concerns and questions of all residents."

Committee members further detailed why filling out the questionnaire is so vital:

"Your response to the survey would also help the town to decide where to expand the system in the future."

That last point is an important one, and a good reason for everyone in Amenia to make sure they complete the Wastewater Survey and not toss it aside thoughtlessly.

Speaking of which, committee members put a lot of thought into this survey, both its creation and its distribution.

So if you own property in the town of Amenia, please make a real effort to complete the survey and return it to the committee, either at the Amenia Town Hall or online, whichever is easier.

For more information on the survey, call the Town Hall at 845-373-8118, ext. 105 or ext. 108. You can even go to the Wassaic & Amenia Community Facebook page or to the Millerton Amenia Community Forum Facebook page, where there are links to the survey's online version, or simply go to the town's official website, at [www.ameniany.gov](http://www.ameniany.gov).

Surveys may also be mailed back to Town Hall, physically dropped off at the town clerk's office at Town Hall or at the secure mailbox outside the entrance to Town Hall, at 4988 Route 22, Amenia.

The goal here is simply to do the survey. It won't take a lot of your time but it will mean a lot to the future of your community.

Sure, you're probably exhausted from the holidays, which have just wrapped up. Many may be recovering from traveling or trying to get the kids back to their school-time routines; others may be dealing with the challenges of COVID or even just a nasty winter flu. We certainly hope it's nothing too severe that might be stressing you out, but we understand for some this can be a busy and exhausting period.

We wish, instead, the New Year will be a time of peace, calm and joy for all of our readers, and that those who own property in Amenia will be afforded a few extra moments of serenity to complete the Wastewater Survey.

It may take a few years, but once you see the kind of impact having a wastewater system can make on a community like Amenia, we hope you'll agree that doing the Wastewater Survey is worth the time and far from a waste of your energy.

For more information on the subject, please read this week's article on Page A3 by Millerton News reporter Kaitlin Lyle.



## ANHNA appreciates its FRIENDS, and hopes for more support in 2022

This year has continued to present many challenges due to the lingering effects of the pandemic. Ancramdale Neighbors Helping Neighbors Association (ANHNA) would like to thank our donors who have stepped forward with additional, generous funding through the year.

We also wish to express our gratitude to the Town of Ancram for its generous support. We also would not be able to do what we do without our dedicated volunteers who so generously offer their time and labor to help others.

All these contributions ensured that our local grassroots efforts were able to pivot and expand, providing "on-call" assistance to help local families gain access to healthy food, clothing, medical care, transportation, warm shelter and education during this past year.

As we move into 2022, we pledge to continue services that:

- Provide abundant weekly deliveries of fresh, healthy food to local families and de-

liver weekly supplies to two neighboring food pantries in Hillsdale and Pine Plains. Partnering with the NY Regional Food Bank, Ancramdale Presbyterian Church, Rock Steady Farm and other local farmers, our volunteers delivered more than 130,000 pounds of fresh produce, meat, dairy and other foodstuffs this year. We also serve as a much needed diaper bank for the Ancram Community.

- Supply holiday meal boxes in November and December and deliver clothing and gifts for children in need through our holiday Adopt-A-Family Program.

- Offer grants to college-bound Ancram Township students, to those entering vocational training programs and adults seeking job retraining. These grants (13 in 2021) help defray the costs of books, transportation, food, clothing and tuition. In addition, our annual school supplies drive collects and distributes much-needed supplies to local children and their teachers.

## President Biden deserves praise for all he's done during a busy first year

As we approach the end of President Biden's first year in office, it is time to take stock of what he and his administration have accomplished. It is a most impressive record, in three main areas.

First, he waged war on the COVID pandemic, by developing a national plan for the delivery of vaccines, invoking the Defense Production Act, buying vaccines, establishing and stocking vaccine sites around the country and strongly urging everyone to get vaccinated.

Second, he and the Democratic administration repaired the economy. The American Rescue Plan cut child poverty in half and expanded access to the Affordable Care Act, bringing health insurance to over 4 million previously-uninsured Americans. Over 4 million jobs were created during the Biden administration's first year, more than were created in the 12 years of the Trump and George W. Bush administrations combined. The administration's infrastructure bill is starting to bring long-overdue

construction to places that need it, all over the country. The U.S. economy grew about 6% in 2021, at the fastest rate in decades, and much faster than the year's growth in China or the Eurozone.

Finally, President Biden has improved America's place in the world, rejoining the World Health Organization and the Paris Climate Accords, increasing sanctions against funding terrorism, and convening a Summit for Democracy, to work with our allies on combating authoritarianism and corruption and protecting human rights. He has ended our 20-year war in Afghanistan and directed the largest human airlift in U.S. history, rescuing over 100,000 people. Working with our European allies he is standing firm against Russia's President Putin's threats against Ukraine.

All of this has been done with very little credit in the media, and with the active opposition of the Republican Party. The Republicans so far have prevented the passage

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### NECC steps in as church departs, and shares encouraging news in '22

As the year comes to a close, we at the North East Community Center can see much for which we are grateful. Although there was a great deal of stress, many challenges and heart-breaking tragedies, we have witnessed a greater outpouring of compassion, kindness and community support than we could ever have imagined. I am not just speaking of community support for NECC and our work — for which we are so thankful — but "community" support for each other.

In times of crisis this past

year, strangers stepped forward, businesses offered goods and services, our local leaders acted time and again to make things better, and the helping hand extended from one family to another in very personal ways all reflect a community to be praised and admired.

There is one among us who fits the bill just described, and we would like to take a moment to thank them and to say goodbye. I am speaking of the Millerton Presbyterian Church, which has been an important source of support for many years, for many people.

We at NECC are grateful to have been a community partner with the Church's food pantry and community meals program. We witnessed time and again how the Presbyterian Church was not just meeting the physical needs of families, but was also providing "soul" support as it went about its work with great compassion.

We are very sad to see the Church leave Millerton, but before they leave, we want to let them know that we are grateful for all the support they have given NECC.

Rest assured, that support will continue to be used to provide food to those who need it, and with compassion — just as you would have done.

We would also like to thank The Millerton News. Our local paper has not only kept us informed of the goings-on in our area but has been a consistent source of support to NECC and our work.

Please encourage more people to subscribe online or in print in order to keep this important local resource alive and well.

Finally, as a note of good news for the future: It is official, NECC will be moving ahead with opening an early learning center in the former Astor Head Start location.

Efforts toward opening the facility will begin in January — we will let you know when an official opening date has been identified.

For all of you who have encouraged us on this path, thank you!

On behalf of NECC, our staff, our board and the people we serve, I would like to thank all of you for your help and support during this year. With great hope for the road ahead, we look forward to what is to come.

Happy New Year!

**Christine Sergent**

NECC Executive Director  
Millerton

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

### THE MILLERTON NEWS

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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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## Young helpers at Legion Post 178's breakfasts much appreciated

My compliments to the Chefs and "worker bees" including the Long Rifles group who participate in providing exceptional breakfasts on the first Sunday of many months of the year at American Legion Post 178.

The food is excellent including coffee (always hot) and juice.

The youngsters who help out are pleasant, mannerly and efficient to the nth degree.

Thank you all for continuing this tradition.

It's also important to note that during the COVID crisis great care is taken regarding masking and distancing, which is also appreciated.

Take-out is offered for anyone who is uncomfortable dining in.

**Diane Walters**

Millerton



# PINE PLAINS/AREA

## Town Board thanks Cloud, considers zoning changes

By **KAITLIN LYLE**  
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

**PINE PLAINS** — Between recognizing outgoing town Supervisor Darrah Cloud's contributions to the town and discussing zoning map changes and the formation of the sewer district map, the Pine Plains Town Board was busy at its last meeting of 2021 on Thursday, Dec. 16.

Beginning at 7 p.m., the board convened in-person at Town Hall and also live-streamed its meeting on YouTube.

### Final farewell to Cloud

For her final supervisor's statement, Cloud delivered a recap of her two terms, covering the last four years. She said she considered it "incredible" for her, the town and the Town Board.

Highlighting some of the most memorable projects and initiatives — including the updated Comprehensive Plan, the creation of the Broadband Committee, the town's designations as a Clean Energy Community and a Climate Smart Community and the launch of its feasibility study for a central sewer system project — Cloud

said, "None of these accomplishments could have been done without the support of an extraordinary group of people employed by the town."

She continued to thank those she's worked with during her tenure.

"It's been my privilege to get to work with them," she said. "I loved every minute of that and I will miss our camaraderie immensely."

Cloud noted she applied for a Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) grant every year since first being elected into office. She explained it takes about six years to secure such a grant, "because every step they want you to get closer to having accomplished some of your projects yourself."

"You have to, in a way, be shovel-ready for them to give you \$10 million," Cloud added.

After submitting this year's DRI grant application, Cloud said she heard back from the state and was asked to make a video to accompany the application, which she completed with help from Patrick Trettenero.

She showed the video that night. At its conclusion, Coun-

cilwoman Sarah Jones recognized Cloud's accomplishments and thanked her for her leadership.

### Zoning maps

When the Town Board later discussed changes to the zoning maps, the board turned the meeting over to Attorney to the Town Warren Replansky, who was accompanied by Taylor Young, a planner from BFJ Planning. BFJ is consulting on the town's behalf.

Replansky explained they had a two-phase set of amendments for the town's zoning code, the first of which entailed text changes meant to clarify the zoning code that were completed this past March.

Young said the second phase entailed remapping some of the parcels in the main hamlet of Pine Plains. He explained the text and map changes were conceived by the town's Zoning Review Committee (ZRC) with BFJ's assistance; the main goal of the map changes was to make existing homes align better with the town's zoning code.

Young said BFJ Planning submitted the proposed zoning changes to the Town Board

with Part One of the Environmental Assessment Form (EAF), which is a part of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process.

Replansky said he took all the work conducted by the planners and created a local law to make the changes to the town's zoning law. The board scheduled a special meeting for the local law on Thursday, Feb. 17, at 6 p.m. in the Community Room above the Pine Plains Free Library.

### Police ride-alongs

Cloud brought up the ride-along program that the Pine Plains Police Department is interested in offering to local children to show them what it's like to be a police officer.

She said the town worked with its insurance agent to create a form for the program and protect it against any liability. The board approved the program with a unanimous vote.

### Sewer district permissive referendum

Addressing the permissive referendum for the town's sewer district map formation, Replansky reminded board members of the resolution they previously passed for the sewer district

map formation, subject to a permissive referendum.

Since notice of the permissive referendum is supposed to be published in the local newspaper within 10 days, he advised the board to re-approve the resolution as a matter of caution.

The referendum will allow the public a chance to discuss the resolution, which has to do with "appropriating a specific

amount to pay the cost of preparing a map, plan and report for the creation of a proposed wastewater district within the town of Pine Plains centered around the hamlet business zoning district," and ask questions for a period of 30 days from when it was originally noticed on the town's website, [www.pineplains-ny.gov](http://www.pineplains-ny.gov), on Monday, Dec. 20.

### AREA IN BRIEF

#### 'Books and Bridles' history program

**COPAKE** — The Roeliff Jansen Community Library invites area residents to join the library on Monday, Jan. 10, for the last of a series of history programs on Franklin D. Roosevelt as presented by Roosevelt Presidential Museum Educator Jeff

Urbain.

Entitled "Books and Bridles: The Story of the Horse Back Librarians," the talk will be held at 6 p.m. via Zoom and tell the story of the Pack Horse Library initiative.

To register, email [library@philmont.org](mailto:library@philmont.org).

#### Become a volunteer at The Stissing Center

**PINE PLAINS** — The nonprofit Stissing Center (TSC) on Route 199 has been holding in-person performances.

While able to do so, it is seeking volunteers to help

out as ticket takers, ushers, stage production crew, office help and with concessions.

Contact Liz Raum at TSC via the website, [www.TheStissingCenter.org/volunteer](http://www.TheStissingCenter.org/volunteer), for more information.

To Place an Ad Call 860-435-9873 or visit [www.tricornernews.com/classifieds](http://www.tricornernews.com/classifieds)

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### REAL ESTATE

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