LLERTON NEWS

Covering Northeastern Dutchess County And Its Environs

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MILLERTON Annual Crafts For A Cause Sale Returns To Schoolhouse A2



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PINE PLAINS Properties On North Main Street Finally Demolished A5 COMPASS

Sondheim Musicals: The Secrets Of Summer Estate; Calendar; And More **B1-2**

Millerton to lose one of its churches

By KAITLIN LYLE kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — While closing doors has been the plight of many churches nationwide between the changing culture and COVID-19, the Millerton community was nonetheless saddened to learn of the First Presbyterian Church of Millerton's plans to close in the next couple of months. Having struggled with its diminishing attendance of congregants, the church has decided to struggle no more by closing in January.

Established at 58 Main St., the First Presbyterian Church was first incorporated in 1847. To this day, many of

Train on track for

its active congregants can trace their long ties to the church through their grandparents, great-grandparents and other relatives who once occupied the church pews.

In addition to its sermons and Sunday school, the church has been a place for monthly community dinners, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings, the Millerton Food Pantry, the Medical Loan Closet, English as a Second Language classes, Spanish services, Vacation Bible School and even a thrift store.

While their beloved sanctuary offered such services to benefit their

See CHURCH, A6



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOWNSCAPE OF MILLERTON AND NORTH EAS

Parade lights up Millerton

No amount of snowfall could prevent the Millerton community from gathering together to ring in the 2021 holiday season with the annual Parade of Lights on Friday night, Nov. 26. For full story and more photos, turn to page A2.

Copake Iron Works 'It was a good fight'

Excavation of knoll approved at scenic Boston Corner Farm

By WHITNEY JOSEPH editor@millertonnews.com

BOSTON CORNER - For six months there has been much back and forth among a passionate group of mostly Ancramdale residents, who petitioned the Ancram Planning Board to reject the application of excavator Fred Schneeberger to level a knoll for Boston Corner farmer John Langdon. Langdon farms property actually owned by Anthony Palumbo of Palumbo Block Co. Inc. of Dover Plains. The issue looks like it will finally be settled this Thursday, Dec. 2.

That's when the board is expected to finally adopt a resolution to officially approve the controversial project. The board voted its unanimous approval of Schneeberger's application at its Nov. 4 meeting, with plans to adopt the resolution at its December board meeting.

"This is what should have happened five months ago. The only reason it took so long is those people down there just kept busting my chops," said Schneeberger, with some frustration after going through what he said has been the longest application process for a simple excavation that he can reshould work for everybody. This isn't going to affect most people; they won't even see it."

Carol Falcetti, who led the neighborhood protest, was pragmatic about the defeat.

"The excavation will take place, but I have no idea if there will be any limitations on it," she said. "It was a good fight."

The nameless citizens' group, which drew roughly 30 or so residents concerned about Ancram's Scenic Overlay District (SOD), actually did see some

member in his lengthy career. "So this See BOSTON CORNER FARM, A6

COPAKE — When news was released on Nov. 16 that the Friends of Taconic State Park (FTSP) was granted permission from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) to, in a matter of speaking, resurrect the railroad,

By WHITNEY JOSEPH

editor@millertonnews.com

smack in the center of the Copake Iron Works National Heritage Area Site in Taconic State Park, it unleashed this reporter's imagination.

It was almost as if the train could gnarled, forested treetops of the Taconic Mountain Range, which, according to the OPRHP, "transcends three states (Massachusetts, New

York and Connecticut) and two counties (Dutchess and Columbia)" with the famed, majestic Bash Bish Falls cradling one side of the rails and the 40-foot-deep iron ore pit cradling the

Some history, park details

The iron industry began in Copake in 1845, and remained active until 1903, according to OPRHP. Its website, www. parks.ny.gov/parks/taconiccopake/details.aspx, states that "the charcoal blast furnace, blowing engine house, machine shop, office and powder storage building still remain and are open to be seen puffing to life through the the public during the spring, summer and fall seasons" at the Taconic State Park — Copake Falls Area.

See TRAIN, A6



The erection of the Copake Iron Works Railroad train shed is on pace for completion by next year, thanks to volunteers who were hard at work on Wednesday, Nov. 24, at the Taconic State Park in Copake Falls.

Artistic and managing directors to leave Sharon Playhouse

By CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com

SHARON, Conn. - After four

years at the helm of The Sharon Playhouse, Artistic Director Alan M-L Wager and Managing Director Robert Levinstein have announced that they will leave the theater on Dec. 31.

'We had a wonderful run, it's time to turn it over to another team," they said in an interview on Nov. 26.

The charismatic pair successfully guided the theater through four years — two of which were made challenging by the COVID-19 pandemic — finding innovative ways to attract patrons to the Sharon venue with everything from cabaret nights to laser light shows, most of them on a custom-built stage in the parking lot.

In their short time in the Tri-state region, the two theater professionals seemed to be everywhere and to have met (and befriended) everyone in the area.

"They've done wonderful work for us, we're really, really sorry to see them leave," said Emily Soell, president of the theater's board of directors and an actress who has appeared in many Sharon Playhouse productions over the years.

Although Levinstein and Wager

See SHARON PLAYHOUSE, A6



CONTACT

The Millerton News editor@millertonnews.com

860-435-9873, ext. 608

Millerton	A2
Amenia	A3
Obituaries	A4
Pine Plains	A5
Compass	B1-2

Millbrook	B3
Opinion	B
Sports	B5
Classifieds	B5
Specialist Directory	B6

OPINION

Millerton Presbyterian Church Will Be Missed; Column; Letters **B4**

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MILLERTON

Parade of Lights sets village aglow

By KAITLIN LYLE kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Just as residents were recovering from their Thanksgiving feasts, the village of Millerton coaxed them out of their cozy homes to ring in the holiday season with a few festivities — including the Millerton Fire Company's annual Parade of Lights on Friday, Nov. 26

In the weeks before the Parade of Lights, Townscape of Millerton and North East helped the village get dressed up for the holiday season by hanging holiday lights throughout the village.

While Millerton's business district was illuminated with strings of lights, garlands and other holiday decor a week before the parade, Townscape and local leaders saved lighting Millerton's Christmas tree for last. The tree, stationed at the entrance to the village by the stoplight at the intersection of Main Street and Route 22, was lit before the parade took off at 5:30 p.m. on Friday night.

Kicking off the Black Friday festivities in Millerton, The Moviehouse hosted a free community screening of the Christmas movie favorite "Elf" at 11 a.m. With doors opening at 10:30 a.m., each moviegoer was allotted one free small popcorn to snack on as they watched the story of Buddy the Elf play out on the big screen.

After the movie, Black Friday shoppers were encouraged to browse the village shops throughout the day, whether they were looking to gather holiday gift ideas for later or buy something that day for a bargain price.

In the early afternoon, Mother Nature treated everyone to a taste of the winter wonderland to come by turning the day's cold autumn rain into a light snowfall, which later turned into an excited flurry of fat wet flakes as the night drew near.

Under the falling snowflakes, residents lined the sidewalks from Salisbury Bank & Trust at one end of Main Street all the way down to Route 22 at the other, in anticipation of the parade. It was scheduled to begin from Arnoff Moving & Storage on Route 22 and end at the Millerton firehouse at 24 Century Blvd. There was no party this year afterward due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bundled up against the cold and checking the streets for



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOWNSCAPE OF MILLERTON AND NORTH EAST

Under the flurry of fast-falling snowflakes, the Millerton Fire Company moved ahead with its annual Parade of Lights, leading a lineup of brightly illuminated parade vehicles and floats from Arnoff Moving & Storage on Route 22 up Main Street to the Millerton firehouse on Century Boulevard.

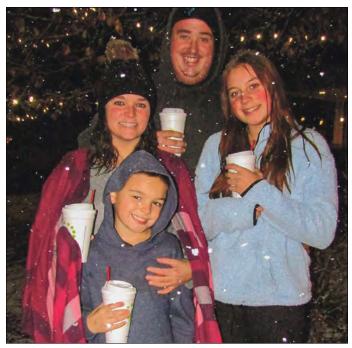


PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

From left, clockwise, Stephanie Hawver, Jordan Hawver, Cheyenne Poucher and Landon Poucher celebrated the holiday season with hot chocolate and the Millerton Fire Company's annual Parade of Lights on Friday night, Nov. 26.

signs of the parade's arrival, spectators' ears perked up with the ricochet of sirens that lit up the night. Young children stood on guard along the sidewalks, waiting to notify family and other community members of the spectacle heading their way and rejoicing when the floats appeared in the distance.

Embracing the holiday season in earnest, parade participants pulled out all the stops to decorate their vehicles and floats for a festive drive through town. A lineup of brightly illuminated fire engines from several local fire companies led

the way while sounding their sirens. They were followed by a number of others eager to spread some holiday cheer from inside their cars and atop their parade floats; there were cars decked with strings of holiday lights; and even holiday characters like Santa Claus and the Grinch were spotted.

Community members appeared happy to return to their warm homes after the parade, heartened by the village's return to its festive holiday traditions and ready to enjoy the rest of the season's celebra-

Crafts for a Cause ideal for holidays

MILLERTON — Crafted with care and created to fundraise for a cause, a selection of beautiful woodcrafts handmade by John Roccanova are being sold inside the historic Irondale Schoolhouse as part of the annual Woodcrafts for a Cause pop-up sale. The schoolhouse is at the Millerton entrance to the Harlem Valley Rail Trail on Main Street, just east of the traffic light at the intersection of routes 22 and 44.

From wooden trains, cars and sailboats to salad bowls, charcuterie and cutting boards, candle holders and other items, customers can browse the selection of beautifully crafted items on display, whether for holiday gifts or to treat themselves to something special.

All proceeds will go to Grow Against Poverty to support education and community development projects in Busia County, Kenya.

The pop-up sale opened on Friday, Nov. 26, and will return again on Saturday, Dec. 4 and Sunday, Dec. 5, during the hours of 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

— Kaitlin Lyle

Don't Miss This Week's **Special Inserts!** Sales and more!

Check them out inside.



Holding up one of his own handcrafted wooden cars, John

Rocconova encouraged shoppers to browse the menagerie of beautifully made woodcrafts on display inside the Irondale

installed in this real estate boom is the fact that they are lethal kill zones for wildlife such as frogs, toads, salamanders, turtles and small mammals. This is completely unnecessary, as a wildlife biologist, Rich Mason, has developed a very simple device that allows this wildlife to escape from the swimming pool and continue on with their lives. What is even more amazing is the price is under 25 dollars per unit. For more information and to prepare for next spring please visit: https://froglog.us/.

Schoolhouse.



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ADVERTISEMENT

Village Board holds public hearing

Trustees to apply for \$5 million water improvement grant

By KAITLIN LYLE kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The Village Board voted to move forward with its Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) grant application after holding the mandatory public hearing on the application on Monday evening,

Applying for a total of \$5,169,000, the board intends to use the grant to upgrade the water supply pipes in the Millerton Water District.

Held at the Village Hall offices at 5933 North Elm Ave. (Route 22), the board meeting began at 6 p.m. and the public hearing opened shortly thereafter.

In addition to the entire Village Board, the meeting drew four residents in attendance.

There were no public comments regarding the village's WIIA grant, and the board later decided to move forward with its application.

Village Clerk Kelly Kilmer said the following day, Tuesday, Nov. 16, that the resolution

the board put forth was for the authorization of a serial bonds principal amount not to exceed \$6 million.

Village Trustee Matthew Hartzog remarked the day after the meeting that applying for the grant doesn't mean the board will ultimately move ahead with it. Explaining there are many moving parts in place, he said if Millerton doesn't apply for a grant, the village may miss out on the federal infrastructure money that was recently made

Coats and cocoa warm bodies and souls



MILLERTON — The North East Community Center (NECC) in Millerton invited area residents to get cozy on Saturday, Nov. 20, at the nonprofit's Coats and Clothing Giveaway.

NECC staff encouraged residents from Millerton, Amenia, Pine Plains, Dover Plains and even further afield to enjoy a hot cup of cocoa and to choose from a wide selection of warm winter coats and clothing.

NECC Executive Director Christine Sergent said NECC provided more than 150 coats, shoes and more to those in

- Kaitlin Lyle

From noon to 2 p.m., area residents like the fellow above, who came to South **Center Street in Millerton** to browse the warm winter coats and clothing offered at the NECC's Coats and Clothing Giveaway on Saturday, Nov. 20.

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Dear reader,

When this newspaper made a plea to our readers for support in 2019, The Lakeville Journal $Company, publishers of The \ Lakeville \ Journal, The \ Millerton \ News \ and \ www.tricornernews.com,$ 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 here for your communities.

Noneen Doyle

Noreen Doyle, Chair

Taxt make

Janet Manko, CEO, executive director

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AMENIA/AREA



PHOTO SUBMITTED

With a touch of magic and a wave of her wand, Webutuck **Elementary School Principal Jenn Hengen transformed** herself into the Book Fairy for Halloween before making the rounds to read "The Giving Tree" in November.

Book Fairy uses her magic to encourage character growth

By KAITLIN LYLE kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

WEBUTUCK — School just got a little more magical for the students at Webutuck Elementary School (WES) and their parents as the North East (Webutuck) Central School District (WCSD) began welcoming the new WES Book Fairy program into classrooms last month.

The hope is to engage students in the Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) character trait of the month program and for parents become a part of the classroom.

As far as how the idea for the Book Fairy took flight, Principal Jennifer Hengen said WES is currently considered a comprehensive support and improvement (CSI) school. That means it needs a comprehensive educational program geared toward academic improvement.

WES was previously identified as a CSI school in early 2019 due to its low student performance rate. In response, a committee of parents, teachers and administrators formed to address academic improvements and enact academic interventions.

While the committee was working on its plan for the current school year, it looked at improving parent engagement and student voices as well as inclusivity and differentiation.

To gather ideas, the committee conducted a student survey, a parent survey and a staff survey.

In their responses, Hengen said students mentioned they wanted more ways to have their parents be part of the classroom and engaged in what they're doing. Out of the surveys "came something fun and exciting to engage our students in our PBIS

character trait of the month to promote school safety and behavior," she added.

Now, each month, Hengen said the Book Fairy reads a book to exemplify a trait on the PBIS character tree.

Asked how they choose the trait, she explained WES has an all-school assembly every six-day cycle that focuses on the Word of the Week and the character trait of the month.

To give the students a taste of what to expect, Hengen dressed up as the Book Fairy for Halloween and later sent out a video to parents to watch and share with their children. She also sent parents a list of birthdays for the month, the featured character trait of the month, the Word of the Week and a book for them to read to their children — all of which she hopes will spark conversations at home and reinforce the program's message.

With gratitude and thankfulness as November's PBIS traits, Hengen picked out Shel Silverstein's classic story, "The Giving Tree." She then went to each WES classroom on Tuesday. Nov. 23, to read Silverstein's book aloud to students.

After reading the book to each class, Hengen added "The Giving Tree" to each classroom's library so students may check it out and read on their own.

In addition to engaging them in the story, the Book Fairy asked students to think about what they were thankful for, especially with Thanksgiving just days away.

Asked how far she plans to take this new program, Hengen said she'll be the Book Fairy until the end of the school year. With "cooperation" listed as next month's PBIS character trait, she anticipates making her rounds to read "Pumpkin Soup."

Thomas R. Soja

OBITUARY

NORTH CANAAN — and "Stairs to Heaven at the Bell

Thomas R. Soja, 59, passed away on Nov. 18, 2021, following his battle with lung cancer. He was the loving friend to Shelly Rice, her family, and many special friends of North Ca-

Tom was born on March 25, 1962, in Middletown, Conn.,

naan.

to Judith (Gates) and Ralph Soja. He was a Remarkable Carpenter, Avid Golfer and a member of the Northwest Connecti-

cut Rod and Gun Club. Tom helped build the chapel er date, following the holidays.

Tower" at St. Joseph Church.

Tom is survived by his mother, Judy; his two children, Benton and Abigale Soja; his sisters, Lisa Turner and Denise Soja; his brothers, Greg Soja and his wife, Frances, and Robert Soja and his wife, Maryann.

He was predeceased by his father.

The Kenny Funeral Home will be handling all arrange-

Services will be held at a lat-

Toys needed to help make the holidays bright for area children

By CAROL KNEELAND Special to The Millerton News

HARLEM VALLEY — As Santa and his reindeer are working feverishly to make their holiday magic happen, they have breathed a big sigh of relief as word has reached the North Pole that they will be getting plenty of help from good-hearted souls throughout the Northeast.

SBT, Millerton, supports Adopt-a-Family

Even before the Christmas tree in the lobby went up, customers at the Salisbury Bank at 87 Main St. in Millerton began dropping off unwrapped gifts for children in need.

Those put under the bank's tree by Friday, Dec. 10, will, in turn, be given to Adopta-Family, the local program run through Moore & More Printing at 17 Dutchess Ave., Millerton. The program serves children in the Pine Plains and

Celebration of

AMENIA — Residents of

all ages are invited to join the

Amenia Fire Company for

the town's 10th annual Cel-

ebration of Lights on Sun-

nia-Wassaic Community

Organization and Silo Ridge

Field Club, the celebration

will start at 2:30 p.m. with

an array of family-friendly

activities downtown, includ-

ing snacks and refreshments.

the tree lighting ceremony

in Fountain Square, followed

by the annual Parade of

Lights at 5 p.m., which will

start at the Amenia fire-

house at 36 Mechanic St.

and end at Four Brothers

Pizza Inn on Route 22. A

free holiday movie for

children will be screened

at the Drive-In Theatre

immediately following

the Celebration of Lights

will be held on Sunday,

parade, contact Amenia

Town Clerk Dawn Ma-

rie Klingner at 845-373-

Wassaic Project's

WASSAIC - From

Saturday, Dec. 11, to Sat-

urday, March 19, The

Wassaic Project will host

its 2021-22 winter ex-

hibition, "What Comes

After," featuring 10 art-

ists throughout the seven

floors of the Maxon Mills

building. In one way or

another, they reflect on

dle, Bowie Zunino, Jeff

Barnett-Winsby and Will

Hutnick, the exhibition's

opening reception will be

held from 4 to 6 p.m. on

tion, the exhibit will be

open on Saturdays from

noon to 5 p.m. and dur-

ing The Wassaic Proj-

ect's three Third Fridays

events (including Jan. 21,

Feb. 18 and March 18)

winterized, so spectators

are encouraged to wear a

coat when they come to

go to www.wassaicpro-

Send news items and

photos to editor@

millertonnews.com

For more information,

Maxon Mills isn't

from 4 to 6 p.m.

the show.

ject.org.

Following the recep-

Saturday, Dec. 11.

Curated by Eve Bid-

life "in the aftermath."

8860, ext. 125.

winter show

In the event of snow,

To participate in the

the parade.

At 4:45 p.m., gather for

Sponsored by the Ame-

Lights Dec. 5

day, Dec. 5.

Webutuck Central School Dis-

According to SBT President and Chief Executive Officer Rick Cantele, "You can drop off new, unwrapped gifts at any of Salisbury Bank's 14 offices by Dec. 10. We encourage gift cards and cash donations for local families during these unprecedented and difficult times."

For SBT's 34th annual toy drive, the bank will likely collect many items; all of the Millerton goods will all go to Adopt-a-Family with other donations being distributed throughout the Tri-state region.

Tax-deductible checks in support of Adopt-a-Family may be sent to P.O. Box 880, Millerton, NY 12546.

Millerton Fire Co. helps Santa

Firemen — some of Santa's

very best friends — have also been hard at work to help make

date of Tuesday, Nov. 30, the special red mailbox in front of the Millerton Fire Company firehouse at 24 Century Blvd. was already stuffed with letters

to Santa from local children

and their families.

Those requests will be filled on Saturday, Dec. 11, as heroic local firefighters in the guise of Santa and two of his elves will deliver gifts at several dozen stops throughout the community. Specific times, matched with locations, will be posted on the Millerton Fire Company's Facebook page.

According to the project organizer, Kelly Rogers, the company has been working for months to manage the effort with numerous toys already having been collected or purchased for children up to the age of 12.

Anyone wishing to donate gifts may call or text her at 518-951-4489. Checks in support

wishes come true. By the cutoff of the program may be sent to: The Millerton Fire Company at P.O. Box 733, Millerton, NY 12546.

Amenia Toy Drive

Meanwhile, at an even more southern North Pole location in the Harlem Valley, Wassaic resident Cindy Snow-Pitts and friends, following the highly successful autumn school supply distribution.

Unwrapped toys for children from newborn through 17 should be dropped off at any of the boxes that are now located in stores and business throughout the area.

Toys may be picked up at the Taconic DDSO Chapel on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information on the Amenia Toy Drive, to offer to provide a location for a collection box or to register a child, contact cindysnowphoto@gmail.com.

Correction

The Nov. 18 edition of The Millerton News incorrectly stated Amenia Town Clerk Dawn Marie Klingner was elected to her fifth two-year term on Tuesday, Nov. 2. The four-year town clerk term of office began in 2018. We regret the error.

Correction

An article ran in the Nov. 25 edition that incorrectly reported following the Amenia election absentee ballot tabulation, incumbent James Morris (REP) lost his seat on the Town Board to Brad Rebillard (REP, AS) by 377 votes. That number was actually instead Morris' final total, nine votes behind Rebillard's 386. We regret the error.

AREA IN BRIEF Not Ready for Winter Dance Dec. 11

DOVER PLAINS — Residents can shake their blues about the coming winter season by dancing at the Not Ready for Winter Dance hosted at the VFW Post 5444, located at 3422 Route 22 in Dover Plains, on Saturday, Dec. 11.

The dance will run from 7 to 11 p.m. and feature live music by The Scarecrow Band. Along with dancing the night away, the dance will feature raffles and other 50-50 prizes. Attendees are invited to bring their own snacks and enjoy the VFW's cash bar.

The price of admission is \$15 per person. To purchase tickets, contact the VFW at 845-877-

Smithfield Church's Christmas Concert

AMENIA — The Smithfield Church, located at 656 Smithfield Valley Road (Route 83) in Amenia, is pleased to announce the return of its annual Christmas Concert and Tea on Saturday, Dec. 4.

The concert will start at 4 p.m. and is free of charge.

Masks are required to attend and proof of COVID-19 vaccination is necessary for those attending the tea after the concert.

For more information, email thesmithfieldchurch@ gmail.com or go to www. thesmithfieldchurch.org.

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS 1. Topsides

7. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)

10. A Sultan's court

12. Maine city 13. Largest living land animal

14. Appetizer

15. Encounters 16. Leader

17. The source of bacon

18. Nuclear near reach weapon (abbr.)

19. Celery (Spanish)

21. Pie _ __ mode

22. Eye disease

27. Hello (slang) 28. Those in their 80s

33. Law enforcement agency (abbr.)

34. Business organizations

36. Mimic 37. For indicating speed of

rotation (abbr.) 38. Feeling

39. Visual way to interact with computers (abbr.)

40. "Let It Snow!" songwriter 41. Essential oil used as perfume

44. Norwegian composer 45. Coast

48. __ lang syne, good old days 49. Gland behind the stomach

50. Tooth caregiver

51. King of Camelot

CLUES DOWN 1. N. American indigenous

people 2. Fascinated by

3. Root of out

4. Patti Hearst's captors 5. Atomic #50

6. Habitual drunkard 7. Arabic for "peace"

8. Trickery 9. One's physique (slang)

10. Not quite there

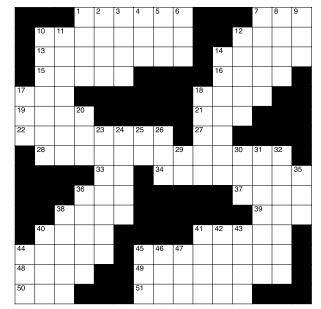
11. Wistfully mournful 12. Popular dance

14. Cut of meat

17. A way to stand 18. "Gunga Din" screenwriter

20. 10th month of the year (abbr.) 23. A way of jumping

24. Utah town



25. Of I

26. Actress de Armas

29. Silver 30. Play a role

31. Falls 32. Attaches to

35. Japanese title

36. Expressed pleasure 38. Buckets

40. Dirt 41. Hypnotists' group (abbr.) 42. Restaurant drive-__

43. Digs up 44. He voices "Olaf"

45. Relaxing place

46. Body part 47. Pesky house critter



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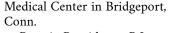


OBITUARIES

Edward Allan Baker

SHARON — With great sadness, we announce the loss of His one-acts, "Dolores," "North

Edward Allan Baker, 71, beloved father, grandfather, brother, husband, playwright, teacher, colleague and friend. On the evening of Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021, Ed Baker passed, surrounded by love from friends and family, at St Vincent's



Born in Providence, R.I., on June 18, 1950, Ed was the son of Rose Walsh Baker and Edward "Booker" Baker. He was a loving father to Marlena Aakjar, Dylan Baker and Alexander Baker; father-in-law to Raymond Aakjar and Kirsten Haaland; and grandfather to Kai Haaland-Warwick and Adrienne Aakjar. He was the eldest of eight children and uncle to 11 nieces and nephews.

Ed Baker was an extraordinary playwright with a unique voice, the voice of those he called "people born to brick and asphalt, who don't have bad days, they have bad years." He was an inspiring teacher and a hugely generous spirit to all who knew

Ed had devoted over 50 years of his life to the theatre. He was a member of The Ensemble Studio Theatre, a recipient of "The 25th Anniversary Award For Theatrical Excellence," by E.S.T., and a lifelong member of The Dramatists Guild.

He taught playwriting at the University of Hartford and Sarah Lawrence College, and joined the Actors Studio Drama School at Pace University in 2006, where he created and led the hugely successful Playwriting Program.

He has written over 30 plays.

of Providence" and "Rosemary with Ginger" chief among them, have been staged frequently in the U.S. and translated and produced worldwide, including Mexico City, British Columbia, Dublin, Rome, Rio de Janeiro,

and Hamburg. He has also written for HBO and Showtime.

Ed Baker's work touched thousands of audiences, actors, directors, producers and theatre companies. His dedication to and thirst for truth and raw voices has inspired and will continue to affect many generations of artists. His work is done consistently and passionately in classes and colleges around the

Ed was a lifelong fan of "The Honeymooners," the Boston Red Sox, Van Morrison, Jack Kerouac, Bruce Springsteen, John Lennon, fish and chips, drum solos, ironworkers, Edward Albee, Arthur Miller, yellow legal pads, reading the New York Times on Sunday mornings, typewriters, a whiffle ball home run derby, NBA playoffs, raking leaves, pastries with coffee, his cats, giving books as gifts with his words of love and wisdom always scrawled inside, reenacting comical occurrences that had previously happened to him, and mentoring troubled teens through life's twisted hardships. His greatest love was for his family, and his extended family.

"You must go on. I can't go on. I'll go on." — Samuel Beckett, "The Unnamable"

An announcement regarding a memorial will be made once it is scheduled.

Doris Louise Longaven

L. Longaven, 93, died on Nov. accomplished seamstress. 24, 2021, at Geer

Nursing Home. She was born Feb. 21, 1928, in Mineola, N.Y., the second child of Anita (née Gunther) and Cornelius Petersen.

Already in 1930 the family moved to Amesville, Conn.,

where Doris grew up and graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School in 1945.

After a year of study at Tusculum University in Tennessee, Doris moved to Florida, where she met and married Daniel F. Longaven in 1952.

They lived for years in Orlando, raising two children, Jeffery and Gail, before returning to Amesville in 1970 after the death of Doris' father. They took up residence on Falls Mountain Road on the last remaining portion of her parents' former property.

Doris threw herself with enthusiasm into family and community life. After her return to Amesville, she was trained in library science and worked for years at the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village. In addition, she gave many hours to the Falls Village-Canaan Historical

She and her family were active members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Hartford, where she also organized a parish library, participated in the choir, altar guild and Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

Doris was an avid reader and

NORTH CANAAN — Doris collector of books, as well as an

She also freely shared her talents in cooking and baking, especially in later years when her daughter and grandchildren came for annual visits

from Canada. Doris is survived by her daughter, Gail Bugbee, of LaSalle,

Ontario, Canada; her grandchildren, Lauren Lang of Baden, Ontario, Canada, Ian Bugbee of St. John's, Fla., Jill Sadler of Kitchener, Ontario, Canada and Nathanael Bugbee of Torrington and their spouses; and eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dan (2009); her parents; her sister, Ruth Dixon (1958); and by her son, Jeffery

Longaven (2015). Services will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 1, at 1 p.m. at the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home in North Canaan. An hour of visitation will precede the service.

Burial will follow at the Undermountain Cemetery in Falls

Memorial donations to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, New Hartford, Conn., would be most welcome.

Due to international travel obligations of Doris' Canadian relatives, guests coming to the visitation and funeral are respectfully requested to wear masks. The family expresses sincere thanks to the nursing staff at Geer for their compassionate care.

Diane MacNeil

LAKEVILLE — Diane Mac-Neil, 64, passed away peacefully on Nov. 20, 2021, at her home in Garland, Texas, after a brief

Diane was born in Sharon on Feb. 16, 1957. She was a graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

She is survived by her partner, Melvin Ray Sims; and her mother, Edith Weir MacNeil Blodgett.

She was predeceased by her father, Edwin R. MacNeil; her brother, Alan MacNeil; a sisterin-law, June; two nieces; and several cousins.

Memorial donations may be made to the scholarship fund at Noble Horizons, 17 Cobble Road, Salisbury, CT 06068.

Another obituary on Page A3.

Arthur S. Rosenblatt

NORFOLK — Arthur S. Rosenblatt, 83, passed away peacefully on Oct. 29, 2021, at Noble Horizons, where he had been living since 2015, due to ill health.

He was born in Boston, Mass., on April 21, 1938, the beloved second son of Doris and Eliot Rosenblatt. His brother, Norman, his nephews Mitchell Rosenblatt and Andrew Rosenblatt, and a niece, Susan Potas, survive him.

Throughout his childhood and adolescence in nearby Revere, Mass., he was an excellent student, always at or near the top of his class. From the age of 7, he worked outside of school hours, helping out at his father's store or selling papers as was expected then.

His love affair with the theater started early with his enthusiastic participation in the high school dramatic club. It was there, too, that he honed his considerable verbal skills on the debate team.

His outstanding academic record earned him several scholarship offers. Arthur chose Princeton, where he found a circle of lifelong friends. Outside of academics, his great love was the Princeton Triangle Club, which each year put on a variety show, written by the students, and which toured the country during the Christmas break. He had many star turns that showcased his comedic flare.

After graduation in 1960 with a degree in English in hand, he

toured Europe for nine weeks with the rest of the cast, courtesy of the Department of the Army.

After his return, Arthur joined the U.S. Army Reserve, fulfilling his six-month tour of duty at Fort Dix. He then went into advertising, working for many years at Liberty Mutual first as copywriter, then Creative Director and ultimately as Advertising Director. For two years he worked as Director of Communications for a company that made a hovering lawnmower, the Flymo.

Though the product never really found its niche in the United States, the job took him regularly to Great Britain, which began a long and happy connection and provided opportunities to enjoy the London theater. His last corporate position was as vice president of the National Union Electric Corp. and its subsidiary, Emerson Radio

Arthur turned to writing of a different sort with the publication of a children's book, "Smarty," in 1981, published by Little Brown and Company. In 1982 he left corporate life for good and devoted himself to writing for young people. His books included "Danger Mouse: Noah's Park" as well as a number of mass-market children's books for the hugely popular Care Bears, Strawberry Shortcake and Cabbage Patch series.

He wrote a one-act play, "Please Hang Up," still being performed, and Barron's study

Harold E. Bushnell

STANFORDVILLE — Harold E. Bushnell, 86, of Stanfordville, passed away peacefully on Nov. 21, 2021, at Sharon Health

He was born on Feb. 18, 1936, in Salisbury, the son of Hazel (Brown) and George Bushnell.

Harold worked as a mover for Arnoff Moving and Storage, before going to work at the Salisbury School.

On June 26, 1960, he married the love of his life, Audrey Camburn, who survives him at

He enjoyed wood working and making yard art, and liked to dance. He will be remembered as a good guy who was always happy, and an exceptionally hard worker.

Harold is survived by his loving wife, Audrey Bushnell; two brothers, Ralph Bushnell and his wife, June, and Louis Bushnell; and several great-nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was predeceased by three brothers, George, Robert and Samuel Bushnell; his sister, Adele Bushnell; and a sisterin-law, Effie Bushnell.

A memorial service will be held in the spring.

To share a memory or leave a message of condolence, please visit www.peckandpeck.net.

Caitlin Peck Lovell

FALLS VILLAGE — Caitlin ter, Megan Reville Arnold; Peck Lovell, born Nov. 23, 1968, passed away on Thanksgiving Day Nov. 25, 2021, after a brave battle with cancer.

She will be missed and forever loved by her daughter, Cerena Jane Fechteler; her mother, Daly Reville; her sis-



her niece Tessa Anne Reville; and her large, loving Reville, Bishop, Lovell, Fechteler, Duplesis families and her friends and neighbors in Falls Village, and around the world

Elliot S. Miller

SALISBURY — Elliot S. Miller of Salisbury died on Oct. 31, 2021, at his home, surrounded by the love of family and friends. He was 79 years old. Elliot was the son of Stuart Franklin Miller and Leonie Elliot Miller.

Elliot spent time as a child with his parents in Kutalumpour, Malaysia, and upon returning to the U.S. eventually settled in Greenwich, Conn. There he attended Rye Country Day School. He enjoyed reminiscing about his time there, which he referred to as "The Happy Valley." There he met Harry Houghland, who remained a lifelong friend.

Elliot attended Phillips Academy Andover, where he excelled and was a member of the swim team, and Harvard University where he earned a degree in English. He received his Doctorate in English from Ohio State University, and taught at the school for a short time. During his years at OSU, Elliot forged a close relationship with head football coach Wayne Woodrow "Woody" Hayes. Some of Elliot's happiest memories involved Woody and OSU football.

After graduate school, Elliot returned to New York, earning an MBA from New York University. He settled in Rye, N.Y., and remained active in the Lions Club for many years. He eventually returned to his parents' home in Salisbury, where he lovingly cared for them and managed their affairs.

Eliot enjoyed finance, connecting with alumni at the Harvard Club, keeping tabs on the swim team at Andover and football at OSU. He loved playing golf at the Sharon Country Club, playing trivia at Mizza's, and was an avid reader. Elliot enjoyed meeting friends at On the Run Coffee Shop in Lakeville. His "Coffee Clutch" group brought such joy to him these past several years, as did visits from his four-legged friend Maud the French Bull Dog.

Elliot loved reminiscing about his childhood adventures and recalled them with great detail. One of his favorite memories was traveling with his mother for two and a half months by sea to visit his grandparents and extended family in Australia. Elliot enjoyed conversation with his cousin Leanda, especially FaceTiming with her in Sydney.

Elliot is survived by his beloved cousin Leanda Elliot and his Aunt Alyson from Sydney, Australia. He will missed by his dear friends and neighbors the O'Dea family and many close friends near and far.

There will be a celebration of Elliot's life on Dec. 11 at 11 a.m. at Newkirk Palmer Funeral Home in North Canaan.

guides for "King Lear" and

"Richard III." It was about this time that Arthur moved to Norfolk. It was like going home for him as so many of his close friends lived here, welcoming him with open arms. Enough could never be said about the mutual love, caring and closeness that developed and only grew until his last days.

He served three terms as first selectman, and along with revitalizing a downtown that sorely needed it, upgraded the town landfill to a transfer station, oversaw needed infrastructure work, instituted a town advocate for children and families and supported the arts, particularly the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival. In honor of his efforts Norfolk received an American Hometown Leadership Award in 1998. Arthur was also a dedicated

member of the Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department for many years, with stints as president and vice president.

Ever a lover of good food and an excellent cook himself, Arthur also wrote reviews and features for Food & Wine, the Albany Times Herald and the Hartford Advocate, among others. He ventured into radio as well: "Cooking with Arthur" out of the University of Connecticut's Torrington branch, and "The Gadabout Gourmet,"

on Robin Hood Radio, WHDD. Throughout his life, the personal relationships he cherished with dear friends in the community and beyond brought him the most joy. Although faced with worsening health, which meant moving to Noble Horizons, he stayed connected through phone calls, emails and visits, nor did he ever lose his prodigious memory, often astounding his visitors with what he recalled of their lives.

He was very much loved by all the staff, who invariably treated him with kindness and

For those who would like to honor Arthur's memory with a donation to one of his favorite charities, he designated the American Parkinson's Disease Association, the American Cancer Society, and Noble Horizons.

According to his wishes, a memorial service will be held in the spring on the Norfolk Village Green.

Worship Services Week of December 5, 2021

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

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.

30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Online worship, Sundays at 10:00 a.m www.salisburyucc.org

Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442

St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE

10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290

North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC

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

FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House,

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

The Sharon United **Methodist Church** 112 Upper Main Steet,

North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summe Pastor Sun Yong Lee 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net

Promised Land Baptist Church

29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org

The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall

Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mmgates 125@gmail.com 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!

The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY

Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thesmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building

SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH 860-927-3003

The Churches of St. Bernard, Sharon St. Bridget, Cornwall Bridge CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

4 PM St. Bridget, St. Bernard, Sacred Heart CHRISTMAS DAY MASS 10 AM - Sacred Heart SUNDAY DECEMBER 26TH MASS 8 AM - St. Bernard 10 AM - Sacred Heart JANUARY 1ST HOLY DAY MASS

10 AM - St. Bridget **Canaan United Methodist Church**

2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts – Open Minds – Open Doors Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com

Millerton United Methodist Church

6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 10:00 A.M. 518-789-3138

Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT

Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org

Greenwoods Community Church 355 Clayton Road, Ashley Falls, MA

Sunday Service 10:30 AM Kidz Konnection K-6th grade (during Sun. Service) Nursery Care All Services Pastor Trip Weiler 413-229-8560 www.greenwoodschurch.com

St. Thomas **Episcopal Church** 40 Leedsville Road

Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com

A Community of Radical Hospitality **Trinity Episcopal Church**

484 Lime Rock Rd., Lime Rock In person services on Sundays 8:00 and 10:30 A.M. www.trinitylimerock.org The Rev. Heidi Truax trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627

Unitarian Fellowship

of NW CT Join our virtual Zoom service on Sunday, December 12 at 10:30 a.m. "Faith Without Borders" For information, contact Io Loi

All are Welcome The Lakeville United **Methodist Church**

319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:30 a.m. Worship Śervice 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors Pastor Joy Veronesi 860-435-9496

Lakevillemethodist@snet.net ST. MARTIN OF TOURS **PARISH**

Immaculate Conception 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 5 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m. DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm

St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME!

For information, please call 860-824-7078 **UCC in CORNWALL**

Congregational Worship Sunday, 10 am Cornwall Village Meeting House 8 Bolton Hill Rd, Cornwall Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunitie Warm Fellowship following Worship

FB - UCC in Cornwall Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community

Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org 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 info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org

All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd.

Salisbury, CT Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340

allsaintsofamerica.us

PINE PLAINS



This aging property at 12 North Main St. was one of two properties marked for demolition late last month as part of the town's plans to revitalize the main hamlet and eventually built a new Town Hall in the main business district.

Demolition brings Pine Plains closer to vision of its future

By KAITLIN LYLE kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — After months spent waiting for the roofs to come tumbling down, the town of Pine Plains' patience was at long last rewarded as the demolition of properties at 8 and 12 North Main St. finally

began last week.

The demolition ties into the town's vision for enhancing its downtown hamlet, a longstanding goal that's been featured in both the original 2004 Comprehensive Plan and the plan's 2019 update.

Along with improving public infrastructure in Pine Plains, the goal is to move the Town Hall from its present location on the outskirts of town on Route 199 into the center of the business district. Moving the location of Town Hall (among other benefits) will make it more accessible to residents and contribute to the community's vibrancy, many believe.

Pine Plains purchased the parcel at 8 North Main St. for \$134,000 in the summer of 2019; 12 North Main St. became available for purchase later that fall.

Town Supervisor Darrah Cloud explained last summer that because both properties are located next to a municipal parking lot, they are especially desirable. Owning the two properties is key to revitalization efforts and could be used to accommodate the plans to build a new Town Hall in the center of town, she said.

The parcel at 12 North Main St. was owned by Attorney to the Town Warren Replansky's wife. Andrea, who sold it to the town for about half of its appraised value at \$100,009.

But the journey to buying 12 North Main St. was paved with some problems, when the Town Board received an email in April 2020 claiming to be a "petition,"

As part of this year's Win-

ter Walk in Copake Falls, the

festively decorated Roeliff

Jansen Historical Society in-

vites the community to take

part in an open house at the

Historical Society building,

located at 8 Miles Road, on

ents can bring their children to

visit with Santa, enjoy the His-

From noon to 4 p.m., par-

Sunday, Dec. 15.

calling for a referendum on the purchase.

When taken to the Supreme Court of the State of New York County of Dutchess, the online document was ruled as invalid on various counts — including its lack of actual signatures and failure to articulate the petition's purchase — and the town closed on 12 North Main St. in late July 2020.

Next, the town had to wait for the actual demolition work to take place. Cloud attributed the long wait to the construction company — Gentile Construction from Yonkers — having "a terrible time with getting the equipment and finding a dump to take the asbestos."

By mid-November, Gentile Construction had the needed equipment on site with plans to start demolition on Thursday, Nov. 11. The actual demolition and asbestos abatement took place on Tuesday, Nov. 23, and Wednesday, Nov. 24, bringing Pine Plains another step closer to its plans to revitalize its main hamlet with a satisfying crack of the wrecking ball.

When she closes her eyes and envisions what the completed project will look like once the space formerly occupied by the two North Main Street residences are finally built out. Cloud said, "The Town Board is dreaming of a new Town Hall in that lot, a place where the offices would be accessible to everyone.

That would be especially helpful to those without cars, Cloud said, adding that her vision for the space includes having the Pine Plains Police Department nearby; it's currently housed in a trailer at the existing Town Hall on Route 199.

Cloud added that "democracy [will be] available by dropping in [to Town Hall] while shopping and going to other places in Pine Plains."

torical Society's annual holiday

exhibit and purchase holiday

wreaths, books, raffle tickets,

to www.roeliffjansenhs.org.

Community members can

also learn more by visiting

the Roeliff Jansen Historical

Society Facebook page "Roe-

liffJansenHS" or its Instagram

page "rjhscopakefalls."

For more information, go

baked goods and beverages.

COPAKE FALLS IN BRIEF

Send news items and briefs to editor@millertonnews.com

Holiday festivities at Historical Society



PHOTOS BY KAITLIN LYLE

Bundled up against the cold night, parade participants gave a hearty holiday wave to the spectators lining the sidewalks as they made their way through the town of Pine Plains as part of the annual Parade of Lights.

Decorating Day and Parade of Lights bring holiday spirit to town

By KAITLIN LYLE kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — It was beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Pine Plains last weekend as the town invited residents and guests alike to preen it for the coming holiday season at the 36th annual Town Decorating Day, followed by the traditional Parade of Lights on Saturday, Nov. 27.

After the surprise snowfall that came drifting down the day before on Friday, Nov. 26, Pine Plains had a cold, clear day to hang decorations and parade through town. Starting at 3 p.m., residents were invited to pick up those decorations in front of the Bank of Millbrook building at 2971 East Church St. in the center of town.

Having collected their decorations, they were given access to the pine trees lining the streets and encouraged to garnish them for the holidays. By nightfall, the trees glowed with the holiday spirit, courtesy of the residents' thoughtful handiwork.

Local children were awestruck to find Santa Claus in Pine Plains a month early, but delighted nonetheless by the chance opportunity to share their holiday wishes with him at the gazebo at the Town Park. As the afternoon gave way to evening, holiday music came streaming into the center of town and Pine Plains shone with a little extra holiday magic with both the lighting of the town Christmas tree and the sight of local residents crowding the streets, determined to get the best view of the parade as it made its way from the Stissing Mountain Junior/ Senior High School into the center of town.

At the stroke of 5 p.m., sirens sounded from the distance and

heads turned toward the arrival of the parade's spectacular lineup of fire engines, resident vehicles, floats, tractors and other sights to behold.

The sirens were traced to the decorated series of fire engines from a number of local fire companies. Members of the Pine Plains FFA waved to their friends and neighbors from atop of their float, proud to embrace the community and holiday spirit in equal measure.

Local families adorned their vehicles, tractors and four-wheelers for the occasion with a variety of holiday trimmings, including inflatable holiday critters and characters and even a few surprise passengers ranging from Santa Claus to the Grinch. Some even threw candy and other treats to the little ones standing along the sidewalks with open arms.

With help from his friends

at Bank of Millbrook, Santa Claus came riding into town on the bank's parade float, while the Ronnybrook Farm team wowed the crowd with their illuminated farm-themed holiday float.

A Grinch on a motorcycle rode at the tail end of the parade, and spectators were encouraged to boo the Grinch to dissuade him from stealing Christmas this year.

Whether they were a firstresponder, a local family or an organization or a visitor from a neighboring town, the event's emcee thanked each and every one of the parade's participants with gusto as they passed through the center of town. The crowd, always enthusiastic, responded in kind with applause, just thankful to be able to celebrate the holidays once more with the community as it has for so many years in the past.

Cost breakdown of proposed sewer system

By KAITLIN LYLE

kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — With the Pine Plains Sewer Feasibility Study at last finalized, area residents and business owners came out to the Pine Plains Town Board workshop meeting on Monday, Nov. 15, to learn what the study's results meant for the town's future. (For more on the results of the feasibility study, read the Nov. 25 issue of The Millerton News or go to www.tricornernews.com.)

This week, we take a look at a breakdown of project costs and other details of the proposed central sewer system for Pine

Heading up the study was a team from the engineering firm, Tighe & Bond, which approached it through a series of tasks.

The first task involved an analysis and delineation of Pine Plains' wastewater needs. Tighe & Bond recommended the proposed sewer district serve the hamlet-business zoning area and include nearby parcels that would like to connect to the district as well as nearby parcels that have experienced septic issues.

With the firm's second task focused on analyzing wastewater flows, Kyle Kortright from Tighe & Bond explained the flow estimates were based on historical water meter data, and that the flow estimate for the proposed sewer district was calculated at 13,500 gallons per day.

Kortright said they also had to consider future flow estimates and calculated a total of 20,000 gallons per day for the district.

Selecting a preliminary collection system as the third task, Tighe & Bond proposed a septic tank effluent gravity collection system. The system was hailed for its low visual impact; its simple operation and maintenance; the low cost to build and maintain its subsurface disposal; and its smaller disposal field.

Including financing costs, the total project cost is projected at \$4,214,000. This includes \$2,615,000 in construction costs; \$520,000 in engineering costs; \$171,000 in land acquisition costs; \$786,000 in project contingency costs; and \$122,000 in financing insurance costs.

For debt service and operation and maintenance (O&M) costs, the total annual cost is estimated at \$205,467 — this includes \$140,467 in annual debt service costs and \$65,000 in annual O&M costs.

Tighe & Bond Senior Project Manager Erin Moore explained that, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), user costs need to be less than 2% of median household income in order for the system to be affordable.

For a single family home, user costs therefore need to be less than \$1,158 annually to be affordable, while the New York State Comptroller stated user costs have to be less than \$696 annually plus hook-up fees to be affordable.

As a potential billing method, the single family annual cost would be \$1,100 and the small commercial annual cost would be \$3,011.

Included in the list of funding strategies to make this project more affordable for Pine Plains, Tighe & Bond suggested potential grants to help lower cost impact — such as the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act grant, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and the **Dutchess County Community** Development Grant — as well as trying to recruit additional system users.

In addition to using the study report to apply for funding, Moore said that, among the next steps, the sewer district will need to be formed, which may require a vote from those living in the proposed district. The proposed district at this point is the main hamlet in the center of town.

If the town begins to form a sewer district now, Tighe & Bond estimates its sewer district will be completed by April 2022.

As for the system's design and construction, Tighe & Bond estimates the system will be operational by 2024.



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CHURCH Continued from Page A1

community — not to mention regular and holiday church services — the church elders did their utmost to be good stewards of the property.

From installing a new roof in the 1990s and two new furnaces to repaying the driveway, the elders have been taking care of the church's maintenance and operations over the years. Yet in spite of their earnest efforts, those elders said they have struggled to attract people to the church and increase participation these past 20 years.

In speaking with First Presbyterian Church Elder Linda Kaplan, she said just last week that the church usually sees only four or five people out in the pews.

With the majority of the elders on the session (or the group that governs the church) over the age of 70 — three of whom participate in the church choir — Kaplan said there are too few people to help take care of the church's daily operations. And while they've tried many different things to attract people, she said it seems to be the way of the world that people have not come back to church.

Just this past summer, Kaplan said the church tried to host Vacation Bible School for the first time in years, but despite their planning and preparations, no one signed up. By the time that VBS was to begin, no on had registered and the program had to be canceled.

When the COVID-19 virus first hit the U.S. and New York, making its way to northeastern Dutchess County and Millerton, the church strived to adjust to the "new normal," added its pastor. It did so by hosting Saturday evening services and opening its sanctuary to the community, though attendance continued to dwindle.

"I kind of had hope people would come back after the pandemic," said Pastor Zora Cheatham, reverend of both the First Presbyterian Church of Millerton and the South Amenia Presbyterian Church. "But that didn't happen and it seems to happen to other churches that people haven't come back.

Cheatham attributed the diminishing church attendance to the number of older active parishioners who moved away to be closer to family members during the pandemic. She also said there's been a changing culture in which younger people aren't going to church.

Based on what she's read about what's been happening to churches nationally, the pastor said COVID-19 has been a major factor in disconnecting people

from the church community, particularly with shifting people from attending services in-person to virtually.

The societal changes and the loss of enthusiasm for attending church have led those governing the decision making at the Millerton Presbyterian Church to decide to close its doors for good come January. The decision was not easy to make, said Kaplan.

"It's a very sad thing for all of us to be doing, but it's something we have to do," she said. "It comes a point where it doesn't make sense anymore to keep struggling, and the thing is if you don't have young people, you don't have a future.'

and concerning and alarming," said Gail Rohr, a church elder at the South Amenia Presbyterian Church, roughly a half hour south of its sister church in Millerton. "I think many people in the village are going to say how surprised they are that the church is closing, but it's dwindled down to such a small amount of people showing up and people, I think, have started to come to church for the big events in their lives and they forget the costs it takes to keep the building open all year

At this time, Kaplan said the church is planning to have a Christmas Eve candlelight service at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 24, which will be the church's final

Till then, Kaplan said, "We're still in the midst of [planning] how everything is going to go."

There are currently a hand-Millerton and town of North East, including the North East Baptist Church (which just lost its leader of more than six decades, Pastor Henry Prause), the Millerton Methodist Church (which has also struggled financially and held many fundraisers) and St. Patrick's Chapel (which closed in 2017 but still has a cemetery on site) and the Faith Bible Chapel at 222 Silver Mountain Road in North East.

The Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall on Route 22 in Millerton, which was founded in 1986, closed in March 2022, as a spokesman from its U.S. branch in Walkill said the entire ministry has shifted to function totally online throughout the U.S. and closed its public ministry," adding he has no idea if or when it will

SHARON PLAYHOUSE Continued from Page A1

will oversee the final productions of this year, the Playhouse board will begin now to look for new leadership.

"We've had many different iterations of these two jobs, where we've had a managing director full time, an artistic director part time, we've tried many things."

Soell said it's possible the Playhouse will hire a management consultant specializing in the arts to help the venerable theater (which was founded in 1950) to move forward.

"We are going to try to be very careful and find the right fit and right person or people - even if it takes time."

Michael Baldwin, who has run the education programs at the Playhouse since this summer, will remain.

"He has done an extraordinary job," Soell said. "He expanded the educational program; now not only are there performances with children but also classes for children and adults."

The 2022 season has also been set, Soell said.

Soell said it is likely there will be an interim director for the coming season. Most theater directors want to be able to select the shows they will oversee, she said.

"I am both terribly sad and extremely grateful," Soell said in a press release. "In their four years with us Robert and Alan have been instrumental in bringing the Playhouse to a new era of financial stability

"Certainly it's heartbreaking

On Sunday, Jan. 23, at 4 p.m., the church will hold a celebratory closing service for the community, followed by a reception.

ful of churches in the village of

return in person.

and respect in the community and beyond.

"They have helped us to deliver the exceptional and elevated level of entertainment, education and inclusion that the Playhouse now enjoys. Their energy, creativity, tireless work ethic and refusal to be discouraged by the daunting circumstances of the pandemic are beyond admirable."

"They continue to give us their best," she added. "They will stay on the job through the rest of the year to shepherd our last three 2021 productions. We will miss them. But we are better for having them lead our theater these past years."

BOSTON CORNER FARM Continued from Page A1

success. The neighbors joined forces to keep a knoll at Langdon Hurst Farm from potentially being mined. Though they were fought on the point of the project being technically called a "mine," the excavation did drop back in terms of scale.

The original Site Plan Review and Special Use Permit (SUP), which Schneeberger submitted to the Planning Board on behalf of Langdon on May 5 to excavate 25,000-cubic yards of gravel from the farm, changed in September due to pressure from Falcetti's group.

Schneeberger lessened the amount of gravel he planned to remove from the farm from 25,000-cubic feet to 20,000-cubic feet, which required the Planning Board to call for new submissions and hearings.

It also led the board's chairman, John Ingram, to ask for more detailed paperwork, including studies on nearby wetlands for the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to review and also studies on longeared bats living in nearby trees. Schneeberger had to resubmit his Site Plan Review and SUP to the Planning Board.

Typically, gravel cannot be quarried in the SOD — except

for rare exceptions. Agriculture is one such exception.

Schneeberger has explained multiple times, to both the Planning Board and this newspaper, that the excavation was needed because the knoll in question is "steep enough you would have trouble getting [machinery] up and down." He described Langdon's farm equipment, specifically a combine, as "state-of-theart," and said it can handle rugged

He also said there are no plans to "mine" the farm — a major point of contention since the application was first submitted.

Palumbo also said he did not intend to mine the farm, and that mining was not his purpose for buying the 110-acre farm roughly 20 years ago. Palumbo said it was his "love of agriculture" that prompted him and his family to purchase the land.

That's regardless of the fact that "bankrun gravel" will be removed, as Schneeberger described the material that will be excavated from the knoll. He further defined it as "sand and stone mixed in the field, or in a bank, a natural resource up and down the area that gets screened and washed and separated and can be made into sand and stone," which

will be removed and trucked down to Palumbo Block in Dover Plains.

"I don't know what they'll do with it," said Schneeberger. "The mine next door, O&G, we worked on that for eight years and they used that for their concrete, crushed and separated and sized it, and then that's what goes in their cement."

Falcetti, who is 82 years old, said she is "OK with what has happened. I fought; I feel like finally the law has been followed as close as could be."

She said she is also pleased some of the Planning Board's procedures have been tightened up, including its posting of the meeting minutes, upcoming meeting agendas — 10 days before meetings as required by law and proper noticing of meetings.

"I'm hoping to see papers and agendas digitalized too," said Falcetti. "The board can say to applicants, 'Please submit paper copies plus digital copies.' For most people, they're younger than I am, handing in things on a thumb drive is not hard to do... It's a matter of will.

Schneeberger, for his part, is just pleased that he can start work on the project when the weather cooperates.

"I'm just happy that it played out the way it did — it should not have taken this long," he said. "Other than that, we're happy, and when all is said and done, it will work for everybody. When it's all done, there will be crops, and only a handful of people will notice it."

He's hoping to get the temporary road in, part of the land stripped and to start digging the top soil before the winter weather begins. Then the actual excavation work will have to be put on hold until spring returns.

Meanwhile, Falcetti said after getting a taste of what it's like to work for something she believes in, she will continue to advocate for her community.

"I know I've been complaining a lot about these things and I'm happy to see the change," she said. "I believe in democracy, I believe in transparency and I believe you have to obey the law. And if don't like the law, you have to work to change it. So in a sense I lost; I lost the fight for the excavation, but that's a small fight compared to getting the minutes and transparency. A lot of people have thanked me; I didn't do it for thanks, but when you work and work and work, and are up at night, it's not bad to be appreciated."

TRAIN Continued from Page A1

In 2016, the FTSP helped get the Copake Iron Works designated as a National Heritage Area Site in the Hudson Valley. One of the group's main goals is to restore the Iron Works site back to the same condition it was in back in its heyday during the 1880s.

For general information about the park, located at 253 Route 344 in Copake Falls, call 518-329-3993 or go to the websites listed above.

Getting folks 'on board'

According to FTSP Board of Directors President Jim Mackin, getting approval from the OPRHP for the project was not easy, but rather a hard-fought and long-sought climb that began more than a year ago and resolved around August.

From there, the Friends initiated its capital campaign to construct a passenger railroad at the Copake Iron Works, with hopes of getting things chugging along by mid-May of next year.

"We started fundraising to get going immediately," said Mackin. "Basically in the past, with our annual appeal and fundraising, we start with our own board. What we've been doing for years and years and years, the whole board kicks in something, and then we're able to tell our membership the board donated, and that in turn kicks off other things."

The FTSP has already raised \$174,000 of its \$366,000 goal to build a 900-foot-long loop track at Taconic State Park. The Copake Iron Works Railroad, as it will be called, will "consist of an engine, a tender car and two ore cars carrying 15 passengers; it will operate from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends and holidays from mid-May to mid-November," explained an official statement from the Friends group.

Mackin added plans are to run the tourist train at the historic site "into perpetuity," and possibly expand it, if all goes well in the future.

Praise for FTSP Copake town Supervisor



should be done by next summer.

was very intentional — all part

of a ploy to lure visitors to learn

more about the region's rich iron

"It was so strategic," said

Mackin. "More and more peo-

ple were finding out about us by

accident, walking back through

Bash Bish Falls, they would see

the blast furnace; it's huge, and

then discover across from that

this museum full of things from

iron making, with a visitors' cen-

ter and eight-minute narrative

by accident, but we couldn't at-

tract enough people to go there,"

he added. "The idea of an iron-

making museum wasn't sexy

enough to attract people, but one

glance at this and they'll be blown

Copake, a rare treasure

with multiple titles to his credit

who resides in both Copake and

New York City, has a deep well

of knowledge about many things.

He noted that the Copake Iron

Works Railroad paired with the

existing Copake Iron Works Mu-

seum will be unique to the area.

ing close by has this," he said,

mentioning one would have to

"I happen to know noth-

Mackin, a well-known author

"They were coming upon this

movie, and a dararama.

away by it."

industry history.

The planning itself, he noted,

A rare photo of the original Copake Iron Works locomotive circa 1880.

Jeanne Mettler praised Mackin and fellow Friends volunteer Edgar Masters for their vision and hard work on the railroad

"Jim Mackin and Edgar Masters came to the September Copake Town Board meeting to tell us about the Copake Iron Works passenger train," said Mettler. "The board was thrilled to hear about this exciting project. We applaud Jim and Edgar, who have worked hard to make this dream come true."

Railroad plans underway

Mettler added that "the Copake Iron Works is a treasure in the town and the addition of this train will only make it a more popular destination. Copake Falls has a rich and unique history. We are grateful to the FTSP, who have worked so hard for so many years to preserve the history of the Iron Works and the Taconic State Park."

The Friends described how the railroad will loop around the park.

"The train will circumnavigate the historic blast furnace, departing from and returning to a station house on Valley View Road in Copake Falls," described the group's release, adding "construction has already begun on the railroad tracks and station

Volunteers are doing much of the manual labor, including placing the heavy railroad ties on the ground. Mackin said if all goes according to plan, the work travel to either Saugus, Mass., or Hopewell Village, Penn., to visit a similar iron-making complex, each more than 100 miles away. "Having said that, in the Tri-state area, there are more than 20 iron-blasting places in the area. The irony, is iron making goes completely out of existence when steel making comes into existence, because steel as a product is not only better, but cheaper."

Alas, the Harlem Valley is known for its rich iron history, and certainly Copake is a big part of that. Mackin said he is just pleased he and the FTSP will be able to merge two parts of history that excite him — the iron ores and the railroads — and share them with the community.

"It's going to be wonderful," he said. "If it exceeds our expectations, which are modest, there are more possibilities. We have to take it slowly and see what works."

While there are more than enough people volunteering to help with the project at this point, Mackin said, "hopefully [the project] will attract people willing to be volunteers and railroad aficionados" to help out once the railroad is up and running.

Support FTSP

The FTSP could use as much funding support as community members can muster to help them complete the project on time and on budget. The Friends of Taconic State Park is a 501(C)3 tax-exempt organization.

For more information, go to www.friendsoftsp.org or email info@friendsoftsp.org. To schedule a group tour of the Taconic State Park, call 518-966-2730.

Stay tuned for more information as the train prepares to approach its final destination, once all of the details are, pardon the pun, ironed out.

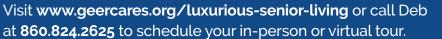
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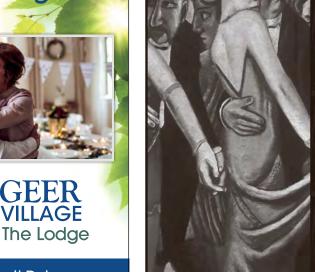
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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

STREAMING: ED FERMAN

The Great Stephen Sondheim

tephen Sondheim died last week at age 91. He transformed the American musical. Ranking his musicals seems futile; they are all so different and almost all so good. Some of his best-known work, such as "Follies" and "Company," is poorly suited for film adaptation, but two of his finest shows have had successful movie versions.

"Into the Woods"

I saw the acclaimed 2019 Barrington Stage production of this muchloved show and came away thinking it doesn't get any better than this. So I approached the film warily. But I doubt even the most fervent Sondheim worshippers will complain much about this spectacular 2014 Disney production, directed by



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148 Canaan Mountain Road Falls Village, CT 06031 860-824-7084 www.rustlingwind.com Rob Marshall and starring Meryl Streep.

Sondheim and James
Lapine have conjured up a
captivating look at several
fairy tales — Cinderella,
Jack and the Beanstalk,
Little Red Riding Hood —
and intertwined them with
a tale of their own.

A baker (James Corden) and his wife (Emily Blunt) are sent on a quest by a witch (Streep) to find the following items in order to have a baby: "A cow white as milk, cape red as blood, hair yellow as corn, and slipper pure as gold."

During their adventures in the woods they encounter classic characters including Cinderella (Anna Kendrick), her evil stepmother (Christine Baranski) and the big bad wolf (Johnny Depp).

The first act (or 1:15 into the film) ends with the success of their quest and everyone perhaps living happily ever after.

Something quite different happens in the second act (final 45 minutes). The story moves away from fairy tales and begins to resemble the way we live now; that is to say, it gets a lot darker. Some will survive; some won't.

The finale rewards us with a hopeful ending, two of Sondheim's loveliest songs — "Children Will Listen" and "No One Is Alone" — and perhaps a few tears.

If you would like to step up from the usual holiday movies, gather the family and watch this wonderful show. Stream on Disney, rent on Amazon.



PHOTO COURTESY IMDB

Start a new holiday tradition by streaming Stephen Sondheim's "Into the Woods," starring local favorite actress Meryl Streep.

'Sweeney Todd'

The Demon Barber of Fleet Street is definitely not a family show — unless you are the Addams Family. I saw the stage version during a 1989 revival at Circle In The Square, which was like having a front row seat at a slaughterhouse.

Tim Burton ("Edward Scissorhands," "Batman") directed the 2007 Dream-Works film and was the perfect man for the job. Johnny Depp was cast as Todd, not an obvious choice — Jack Nicholson must have been tied up ("Here's Sweeney!") — but Depp gave a fine performance that won him a Golden Globe and an Oscar. Helena Bonham Carter plays Mrs. Lovett, and Sacha Baron Cohen makes a brief but splashy

appearance.

Many of you will recall the plot. Todd returns to London after a false imprisonment, obsessed with avenging the judge who sent him away and took custody of his lovely daughter, Johanna. He gets his revenge but not before entering into a scheme to provide meat for Mrs. Lovett's pies. Much slaughter ensues. The conclusion is a shocking stew of intrigue, retribution and carnage, with some relief being provided by the romance between a young sailor and Johanna.

The thrilling Sondheim score holds this dark melodrama together. Some songs may be familiar — "Pretty Women" and "Johanna" — but, as in all of his shows, the action does not pause for songs; they move the story along, like dialogue or opera. The director of the Metropolitan Opera reportedly was willing to stage "Sweeney" at the Met.

Turn up the brightness on your TV and stream it on Hulu or rent on Amazon.



IMAGE FROM DM HUNT LIBRARY

Handmade toys by Jennifer Markow are among items for sale at the D.M. Hunt Library pop-up shop in Falls Village, Conn.

ARTISAN GIFTS AND EDIBLES AT D.M. HUNT LIBRARY SHOP

The holiday pop-up shop at the D.M. Hunt Library in Falls Village, Conn., continues until Jan. 11, during library hours (Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5p.m., Friday 3 from 3 to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

p.m.).
The Holiday PopUp Shop has crafts,
ornaments and
foodie stash from local
artisans and small
businesses. Items for
purchase will include
glass ornaments by
Nunwell Glass, pottery
by Diane Schapira,
small sculptures by
Sergei Fedorjaczenko
and toys by Jennifer
Markow. For foodies
there will be culinary

salts from Rolling Rock Farms, maple syrup from Lou Timolat and Eric Carlson's Falls Village Saw Mill, and jams from Bosco Schell.

For book lovers, there is a brand-new large Hunt tote bag and a book sale cart packed with volumes perfect for giving.

In addition, the exhibition Flora & Fauna remains on display through Dec.
19. It features etchings of cats and wildlife by Allen Blagden and paintings on glass with marbled paper by Lilly Woodworth.

A portion of all sales benefits the library, which is at 63 Main St.

SMITHFIELD CHURCH CONCERT AND TEA DEC. 4

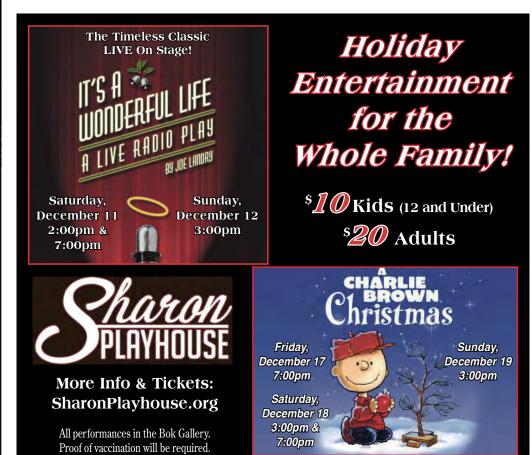
After a one-year hiatus, the Smithfield Church Christmas Concert & Tea returns on Saturday, Dec. 4, at 4 p.m.

The Smithfield Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Matt Finley will present holiday classics, an offertory on Greensleeves, excerpts from "The Nutcracker Suite," readings of two poems and more.

There is no cost to attend. Masks are required for the concert; anyone attending the tea after the concert must bring proof of vaccination.

The Smithfield Church is at 656 Smithfield Valley Road (Route 83) in Amenia, N.Y. For more information, contact the smithfield church@gmail.com or go to www.thesmithfield-church.org.





Christmas Concert and Tea

The Smithfield Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Matt Finley





The Smithfield Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd., Amenia, NY

December 4 4:00

...The Chamber Orchestra returns, playing Christmas songs and classics!

TheSmithfieldChurch.org/concert for program details...

This event is part of

The Bang Family Concert Series

The public is invited
No entrance admission...
A plate will be passed during
the performance for those
who wish to make donations
to the church. Contributions
will be gratefully accepted.

Attendees are asked to wear a mask in the church, and those wishing to stay after the concert for tea are required to show proof of immunization.

Thank you for your cooperation.

DAY TRIPS: DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Discovering the Secrets of a Summer Estate — Now That Autumn Has Arrived

all and winter usher in new seasons of beauty and tranquility throughout the 510-acre Topsmead State Forest in Litchfield, Conn., whose crown jewel is an elegant yet understated circa 1925 English Tudor-style cottage.

Edith Morton Chase built her home at Topsmead as a summer escape, but after the scent of spring and summer flowers is gone, the estate unfolds in a different way.

Trees that have shed their leaves reveal the bones of a landscape that captivates the senses. The main house, designed by noted architect Richard Henry Dana Jr., is the focal point, with its cypress exterior woodwork, lead downspouts, walls of brick and stucco, and slate roof.

Upon her death in 1972, Chase bequeathed her beloved country estate to the people of Connecticut and requested in her will that Topsmead remain undisturbed and in "a state of natural beauty," according to a history of the forest on the state Department of **Energy and Environmental** Protection (DEEP) web-

Over the years, an endowment left by Chase a savvy businesswoman, who built up her wealth and real estate holdings over the decades —has been used to preserve the buildings and grounds as they were at the time of her death.

The former landowner adored the outdoors, as is The flowers are gone now at **Topsmead State** Forest in Litchfield, Conn., revealing the structures behind them. It's a perfect time for a day trip.

evident from the landscaping around the cottage. Twisted old apple trees and ornamental cherry trees line the drive, complementing the home's striking architecture. Their leaves long gone, beauty is revealed in the few remaining apples high atop the trees, or the clusters of ruby-red cherries suspended from barren limbs, making for a breath-taking silhouette against an azure

Plantings of holly and juniper come into focus, now that the forsythia, peonies, lilacs and fragrant perennials are enjoying their seasonal slumber. As the nights grow longer, the curled, fallen leaves and once-soft flower petals allow the sculptural evergreens and mature trees to make an elegant statement.

According to a history of the property on the DEEP website, in 1917 Chase received 16 acres of land on Jefferson Hill in Litchfield from her father, Henry Chase, the first president of Chase Brass & Copper Company in Waterbury, Conn.

She originally built a rustic cabin on the prop-

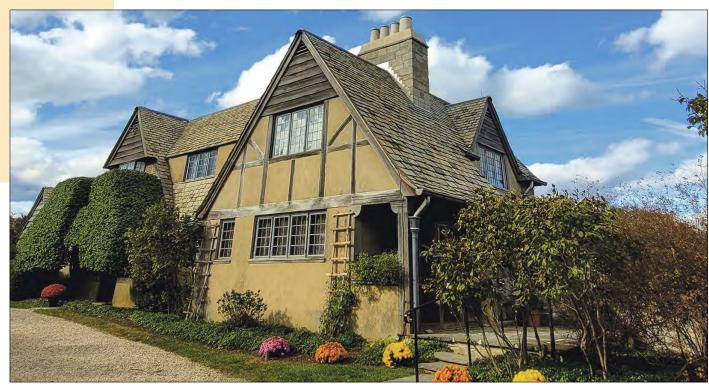


PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

erty, which was later replaced by the current residence. In 1927, according to the historical account, Chase purchased the former Buell Farm and renamed the property Topsmead Farm to reflect its "top of the meadow" location. At one time the farm produced food used on the estate.

On a recent late-morning visit, a handful of visitors strolled the lawns and paths and rested at picnic tables scattered throughout the site. The Edith M. Chase Ecology Trail offers a 7/10ths mile walk with interpretive signs. A weathered sign directs visitors to the forest's butterfly garden and wildlife viewing blind.

The park, on Buell Road, is open for yearround passive recreation, including walking, bird-watching, picnicking and cross-country skiing. Gates open at 8 a.m. and close at sunset. Visitors are invited to picnic on the grounds; open fires or grills are not allowed. Pets on a leash are permitted in the picnic areas and on hiking trails.

The park and exterior of the building can be visited daily all year long; the gates close at sunset.

For more information, go to https://portal.ct.gov/ DEEP/State-Parks/Forests/Topsmead-State-Forest, or follow the Facebook link for the Friends of **Topsmead State Forest.**

The complete set of illustrations

Carl Chaiet

From his book "Man's First Word" Showing in the Group Exhibition OFF THE WALL



Opening: December 3rd, 6 – 8 pm Where: Kent Art Association

21 South Main Street, Kent Show runs December 4 – December 24 Thursday - Sunday, 1 - 5 pm

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Send items to calendar@lakevillejournal.com. All entries $can\ be\ found\ at\ www. TriCorner News. com/events-calendar.$

MISC.

SWSA Ski Swap Sale, Lakeville Hose Company, 4

Brook St., Lakeville, Conn. www. salisburyisjumping.com Dropoff Dec. 3, 4 to 7 p.m. Sale is Dec. 4, 8 to 11 a.m., pick up money, unsold equipment from 11 to noon. No dropoffs Dec. 4.

Housatonic Valley FFA

Holiday Store,246 Warren Tpke., Falls Village, Conn., ffa. hvrhs.org Trees, wreaths, roping,

poinsettias and more; Nov. 27-Dec. 23, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Hometown Holidays, Lakeville Firehouse, 4 Brook St.,

Lakeville, Conn. Dec. 4: 11-4 Vendor Fair; 3-5 Photos with Santa; 5:30 Tree Lighting

Santa and Cookie Contest

in Sharon, Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main Street, Sharon, Conn., www. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org Meet Father Christmas, hear stories and participate in a craft, Dec. 4, 1 to 3:30 p.m.; Holiday Cookie Contest, drop off cookies between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Tree Lighting in Sharon, The Green, Main St., Sharon, Conn. Tree lighting, carols, hot cider on the porch of the Sharon Historical Society & Museum, Dec. 4 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Tree Lighting and Gingerbread House

Competition, Cornwall Library, 30 Pine Street, Cornwall, Conn., www.cornwalllibrary.org Children's and adult categories with prizes, Dec. 5 beginning at 4 p.m.

Kent parade of Lights, Kent,

Dec. 4, Line up at Kent Green at 5 p.m., Step off at

The Clark Art Museum, 225 South St., Williamstown, Mass www.clarkart.edu PRINT ROOM POP-UP, Dec. 4, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Five Points Center for the Visual Arts, 855 University

Dr., Torrington, Conn. www. fivepointsgallery.org CLAY SNOWMEN, Dec. 4, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Kenise Barnes Fine Art, 7

Fulling Lane, Kent, Conn. www. Holiday pop up shop, Dec. 4, noon to 4 p.m.

BOOKS

Oblong Books & Music, 26 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. www. oblongbooks.com

In-Person Book Signing: Annie Leibovitz, Wonderland, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.

The Mount, 2 Plunkett St., Lenox, Mass. www.edithwharton.org Home: A Celebration with Charlotte Moss & Susan Wissler, Dec. 7, 4 p.m. (online).

KIDS

Norman Rockwell Museum. 9 Glendale Road, Stockbridge, Mass. www.nrm.org Joyful Holidays Family Day, Dec. 4, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Winter Wonderland Scavenger Hunts, Dec. 5.

MOVIES

Bardavon, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie, N.Y. www. bardavon.org FILM: IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (1946), Dec. 3, 8 p.m.

MUSIC

Salisbury Association,

Salisbury, Conn. www. salisburvassociation.org Annual Holiday Concert, Dec. 4, 5 p.m.

THEATER

The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661

Route 308. Rhinebeck, N.Y. www. centerforperformingarts.org A Christmas Carol, Dec. 3 to 19.

Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox, Mass. www.

shakespeare.org

The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley, Dec. 16 to 19.

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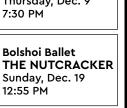


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MILLBROOK

Washington Town Board adopts 2022 budget

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE judithb@millertonnews.com

WASHINGTON — The Washington Town Board passed its 2022 budget on Thursday, Nov. 4, after holding the requisite public hearing on the fiscal plan. Town Supervisor Gary Ciferri, along with Councilmembers Stephen Turletes, Michael Murphy, Robert Audia and Joe Rochfort voted in favor of the budget, which was posted online that day at www. washingtonny.org.

Some tax rates were up slightly from this year's 2021 budget. The 2022 town budget went up 1.97% from 1.95% in 2021.

The fire line went up .49% from .48% in 2021.

The village's budget line went down a hair, from .86% in 2021 to .85% in 2022.

The library budget line remains the same at .16%.

Assessments increased throughout the community, In the village of Millbrook, they went from a grand value of \$214,726,908 to \$216,830,294 in the 2022 budget.

In the Town of Washington, outside of the village, property assessments went from \$960,206,247 in 2021 to \$968,916,562 in 2022.

Townwide, which includes all properties, assessments rose from \$174,993,155 in 2021 to \$1,185,746,856 in 2022.

The 2022 budget line for the Millbrook fire department was listed at \$1,174,933,155 in 2021; for the 2022 budget it's listed at \$1,179,201,606. The multiplier in both 2021 and 2022

Fund balances

\$1,521,934. For the revenue line, it's listed at \$461,900. The Fund Balance is listed at \$58,000. The tax levy is listed at \$1,002,034.

For the General B Fund, appropriations are listed at \$411,517. For the revenue line, it's listed at \$316,179. For the Fund Balance line, it's listed at \$85,000.

The Highway DB Fund listed appropriations at \$1,511,891. It listed revenues at \$256,100. Its Fund Balance is listed at \$175,000. Its tax levy is listed at \$1,080,791.

The Fire District FS Fund lists appropriations at \$577,833.

The 2022 Town of Washington Budget Totals are as follows: Appropriations come to \$4,207,175; Revenues come to \$1,034,170; the Fund Balance comes to \$318,00; the Tax Levy comes to \$2,855,005.

Salaries and stipends

Stipends for Town Board members increased from \$4,777.14 per year to 4,920.46 annually. The town supervisor's salary increased from \$19,107.53 to \$19,680.76, while the deputy supervisor's pay increased to \$6,151,20.

The town clerk earned \$65,649.11 last year; this year she'll receive \$67,619.58.

The bookkeeper in 2022 will earn \$52,451.90, an increase of \$13,461.20.

The town justices will each receive \$17,421,57.

The town assessor will earn \$51,305.12 and the assessor's clerk and assessor's aide will each earn \$18.54 per hour.

The highway superintendent will earn \$65,649.11, the same as this year.

The animal control officer will earn \$11,808.88 and the recreation department director will earn \$60,000.

All of the above salaries will be taken out of the A Fund.

Total B Fund salaries, which include two part-time constables, the building inspector, three waste attendants, one safety inspector and a part-time (as needed) Zoning Board secretary, amount to \$94,589.57.

The total amount of salaries for the B Fund amounted to nearly \$8,100 less than

The total amount of For the General A Fund, salaries requested for the appropriations are listed at Highway Department was \$438,955.92, an increase of nearly \$9,500 more than what was paid in 2021.

Tax rates

For 2022, the Tax Rates come to the following: In the Village of Millbrook, the tax rate will be .85%; for the Town of Washington, outside the village, it will be 1.97%; the fire taxes will be .49%; and the library taxes will be .26%.

The tax levy in 2022 comes to \$2,855,005, versus the 2021 tax levy, which was \$2,802,942, a difference of an increase of 0.0186%.



Anthony Bellomo stood among some of the live plants at his Millbrook home and garden shop, Orangerie, which features lovely items for indoor or outdoor decorating as well as landscaping services.



Linda Hefner, manager at Creel and Gow in Millbrook, stood amid some of the unique treasures offered at the shop, many of which are one of a kind.

Millbrook boasts two new shops: Creel & Gow, Orangerie Garden

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

MILLBROOK - When entering Millbrook from Route 44 onto Franklin Avenue, one may notice a bright red call box, a telephone booth reminiscent of mid-20th Century Britain.

There are two new businesses there, located at 3424 Franklin Ave., on the corner of Franklin and Route 44.

Creel and Gow

Park your car, and enjoy a leisurely walk into the pair of new Millbrook shops, starting with Creel and Gow.

There is a similar establishment in NYC; here in the village of Millbrook Creel and Gow has brought the same type of unique merchandise to Harlem Valley shoppers. Advertising items mineral, oceanic and natural - in jewelry, art, decor and "Art De La Table," many items at Creel and Gow are unique and one of a kind.

Starting with the jewelry, the store features some remarkable pieces of LouLou De La Falaise, who studied for many years under Yves St. Laurent, as well as its own line of jewelry, Creel and Gow.

As advertised, the shop offers objects that have been collected from around the world by Jamie Creel and his team. Among the minerals shoppers will find coral, turquoise and some very rare gems, as well as silver, gold and pieces that are art as well as jewelry. There are bracelets, earrings, necklaces, pendants and rings - very unusual pieces in many glorious colored minerals and stones.

If taxidermy is what one desires, there is a collection of just about everything at Creel and Gow: birds large and small, animals with hooves and horns, so exquisitely done that they appear to be alive. They are placed among things delightful for any home: statues, jardinières, rugs, paintings and illustrations and all kinds of wall hangings. Many of the objects are fashioned after animals in the form of candle holders, napkin rings, statues and more.

There are also items for the dining room: dishes, platters, bowls, serving pieces - in china, metal, wood and stone.

Store manager Linda Hefner is very accommodating and can give the history of many of the items.

The space is large, open and one can take time to wander throughout to see it all. Much of the inventory is vintage, but then there are the modern pieces dotted throughout.

Creel and Gow opened on May 15 of this year. To contact the shop, call 845-677-4505 for current store hours.

Orangerie Garden and Home

At the other end of the long building is Orangerie Garden and Home, which also opened earlier this year. Orangerie is all about the garden, and has a delightful mix of living things and inanimate objects, both old and new.

Owner Anthony Bellomo, a landscape architect, had a very picturesque idea behind his business model. It's a four-part concept, all about greenery, growing, garden and grace.

Orangerie combines living items with objects that meld with and illuminate the greenery that abounds here in the Harlem Valley. It offers plants, annuals, perennials - flowering and non-flowering — for all seasons and in all places.

Mix classic and vintage for a unique arrangement of one's own, or have professional help with one's indoor and outdoor space. There are many lovely topiaries available, and many dried arrangements to grace tables and patios alike.

The design studio allows for the availability of in-house landscape and horticultural specialists to work with their clients to produce beautiful results. That can range from a simple container for a certain spot to an entire garden. A cutting garden? An herb garden? A place to attract bees and hummingbirds? It's all possible with a little help from the experts at Orangerie.

Their greenhouse offers a wide assortment of flowers and shrubs, bringing beauty to each season. They also provide expert instruction on planting, arranging and maintenance

The shop contains an assortment of unusual pieces, garden related, for the garden, patio, terrace, office, business or home. Vases, urns, containers, pottery — it's all there. The mix of new and old pieces works so well, and the variety from classical to modern is fun and works really well together. From delicate pieces to sturdy urns and planters, there's something there for all tastes and needs.

In warm weather, there is outdoor seating to make it easy to sit with an expert to plan a garden; the scents are lovely and the lighting is great. All of the items, whether live or not, are arranged artfully. And while there is a huge assortment of things to look at, there is a feeling of airiness and open space that is not always true of retail spaces.

Orangerie Garden and Home is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days per week. To call, dial 845-677-4319.

DUTCHESS COUNTY 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.

ADWI Arrest

Thursday, Nov. 25, Deputies reported the arrest of Anner Yonilo Perez, age 26, for Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated subsequent to the investigation of a report of a

subject passed out in the vehicle on the front lawn of 454 Old State Route 22 in the Town of Dover.

The subject is to appear in the Town of Dover Court at a later date.

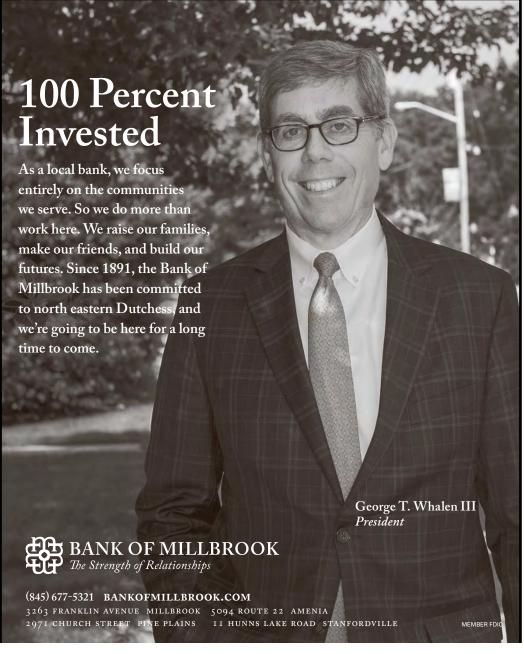
Report crime tips

Anyone with any information relative to the aforementioned criminal cases, or any other suspected criminal activi-

ty, should contact the DCSO tip line at 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. Contact us by mail at 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.





THE MILLERTON NEWS

EDITORIAL PAGE B4

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2021

EDITORIAL

Millerton Presbyterian Church will be missed

This week we report on a sad state of affairs in Millerton — after more than 174 years, the Millerton Presbyterian Church, fondly known to many as The Brown Church due to its dark-colored facade, announced that come Sunday, Jan. 23, it will give its final service and close its doors for good.

Like so many religious institutions, the Millerton Presbyterian Church just hasn't been able to sustain itself throughout the coronavirus crisis. Right after COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, New Yorkers were among the millions being kept from attending their houses of worship around the globe, all in an effort to stay safe.

While the powers that be in the medical field and in our government were doing their best to protect us — unquestionably the right move — what they didn't realize was that when they padlocked the pews our already dwindling church, temple and mosque populations were forced to come up with creative ways to maintain their masses.

Some institutions quickly turned to virtual services, a reasonable and ready approach to try to keep their members interested and involved in whatever programs they were offering. For some localities, this turned out to be successful, and for that we are grateful.

Many in our Harlem Valley community have continued with their online services, either adding them to their now returned to in-person programs or continuing with only virtual services for the time being, depending on their local COVID situation and comfort level at the moment.

Yet some others were either not able to pivot to online services during the pandemic or could not adjust successfully afterward, unfortunately. Many, already dealing with the challenge of dwindling membership during the past few years, lost even more congregants during the health

Some, like the Millerton Presbyterian Church, which did go virtual during the pandemic and continues to do so even now, took steps to draw additional community members at more convenient times, like on Saturday evenings. It also kept its sanctuary open to the community, but neither approach seemed to attract more members.

Of course, the church offered the traditional sermons and Sunday school, as well as Vacation Bible School (which had zero campers register this year), with the popular Pastor Zora Cheatham to draw in the crowds. Yet the response has grown more tepid as time passed, and as societal interests have changed.

The church has also offered multiple resources to Millerton residents for many years — many that may have gone unnoticed — but certainly not unappreciated. It hosted monthly community dinners for residents in need of either extra support or extra company; it was home to the Millerton Food Pantry for years; it housed the Medical Equipment Loan Closet; it offered free English as a Second Language classes; it held Spanish services for non-English speaking residents; it held Vacation Bible School; it housed a thrift store; it hosted Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings for many years; and it offered countless other community services during its nearly 175 years of

We hope another church or organization, perhaps the North East Community Center (NECC), will pick up on some of these essential social services in the village.

With The Brown Church soon gone, like far too many places of worship in our world — including right here in Millerton (remember St. Patrick's Catholic Church, a mission church of Immaculate Conception in Amenia, founded in 1867; it closed in 2017 due to low attendance), the Millerton Presbyterian Church will sadly become another page in our history books before long.

This is all happening in a time when people are proving they need the positive support of their religion, or at least of humanity and how to treat one another, more than ever. We seem to be dealing with so much trauma these days — death and dying and personal loss — and are losing touch with ways to stay grounded.

If it can be done safely, people should be flocking to their houses of worship, to feel connected to a higher power who can bring them peace and positivity. Sadly, though, the trend has been that such places are closing.

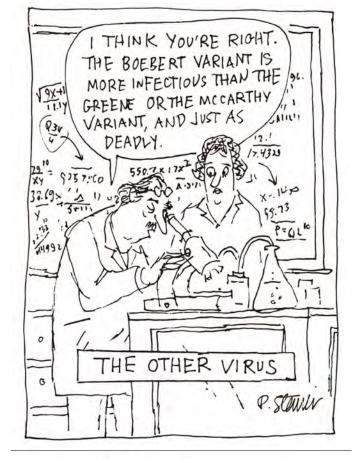
The United Presbyterian Church of Amenia, a Civil War-era church that started construction in 1861 and was completed by 1865, had to face a similar fate in 2015, when its congregation dropped to only six active members.

Its sister church, the charming Gridley Chapel in Wassaic, a Gothic Revival-style chapel built in 1873, also struggled to exist. No longer in use, for many years it mainly served as a place of worship for special holiday services, weddings and baptisms — as have so many of our churches — as synagogues have for their holiday services, weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs and other celebrations.

With such low attendance and increasing operation and maintenance costs proving to be the same problem for the Millerton Presbyterian Church, the United Presbyterian Church of Amenia ultimately had to close after more than 250 years of serving the community. The Route 22 property, across from the popular Four Brothers Drive In Theatre, ultimately reverted back to the Hudson River Presbytery and is now home to the Silo Ridge Field Club offices. The building has been repaired and modernized by Silo Ridge, though the church structure remains as an homage to its long history in Amenia.

Hopefully, when COVID-19 is contained and the virus cured, congregations will return to support their houses of worship. Maybe one day, even the Millerton Presbyterian Church will be able to reopen its doors to the village it nurtured and loved since 1847.

We know many, including those of us as this newspaper, are going to miss The Brown Church dearly when it rings its church bells for the final time.



A thank you from Roe Jan Library director

Thanksgiving is a day when we reflect on what is important to us and what we are thankful for. The Roeliff Jansen Community Library has reason to be especially thankful this year.

Our library has weathered another year of COVID, staff have remained well and we have been able to continue to do what we love best — welcome you into our building, help you find your next great read or movie, provide access to the information and services you need and share educational and entertaining programs with you. But we have even more to be thankful for.

Nov. 2 was a historic day for the library. For the first time, the voters in Ancram, Copake and Hillsdale all resoundingly voted in favor of increased financial support for their library.

The Board of Trustees and staff would like to express our deep gratitude to all who came out in support of the library this election season, as well as to the many volunteers who worked so hard to make sure everyone knew to turn over the ballot and vote "yes" on Proposal 6.

We are humbled by the margins (over 75% in favor in Hillsdale and over 63% in favor in Ancram and Copake).

It has been a tough couple of years for everyone, and we know that it may have seemed presumptuous to some for the library to ask for increased financial support at this time. But we also know that public libraries, which offer services to all members of the community, no matter their income, politics, age, etc., are particularly important community anchors and supports during such times.

Your vote of confidence in your library will only make us work harder to support the communities that have supported us.

Thank you. And may you all have a wonderful holiday.

Tammy Gaskell Director, Roeliff Jansen Community Library Hillsdale

ture Budget Meeting, Democrat Minority Leader Rebecca Edwards attempted to criticize her colleagues saying, "this

During a County Legisla-

Legislature is doing virtually nothing."

The Legislature is in the midst of reviewing the 2022

Proposed County Executive Budget by holding public hearings and meeting with Departments to ensure staffing and services are being maintained as well as discussing new service proposals. The Budget review process is one of the most highspeed internet/broadband important aspects of being a county legislator.

Throughout the Legislature's Budget review and November meetings, the Democratic Caucus has maintained a 43% attendance rate average. At one meeting, zero members of the Democratic Caucus were in attendance. Over that same span of 11 meetings, the Republican Caucus maintained a perfect, 100% attendance rate.

Our residents need a highly efficient and functioning County government. There are people out there that need help, want better roads and parks and deserve to have their taxes lowered.

We are absolutely disappointed to hear Legislator Edward's remarks and suggest the Democratic Caucus starts doing their jobs and showing

The County Executive and Legislature Chairman point to their 2021 accomplishments:

- Purchased and authorized up to \$25 million for the construction of the Youth Opportunity Union (YOU)
- Delivered \$3.1 million in Learn, Play, Create youth
 - Negotiated and ratified a Pine Plains

must step up, get to work 25-year lease with Keystone Professional Baseball Club to

bring a New York Yankees af-

filiate team to Dutchess Sta-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Molinaro, Pulver agree

Democratic Caucus

dium Authorized funding for upgrades at Wilcox Park, Bowdoin Park, Lake Walton Park and Quiet Cove Park

• Established a reserve fund for the Parks Division

• Expanded use of Crisis Intervention Team Training to municipal law enforcement

• Authorized a \$350,000 project

· Adopted a local law to protect restaurants from nefarious third-party delivery

 Authorized and approved the implementation of the County Sheriff's Police Re-

form and Modernization Plan · Negotiated and ratified a Government Greenhouse Gas Inventories and Climate Action Plan between the County and municipalities

· Authorized and conducted PFOA/PFOS study for homes surrounding the Hudson Valley Regional Airport

• Authorized purchase of a Mobile RV to deliver physical, mental and communicable disease health services to Eastern Dutchess

· Adopted a local law for Fair Housing

And, we are delivering the eighth consecutive property tax cut, the largest tax reduction in County history, and eliminating sales tax on clothing and footwear under \$110.

County Executive Marc Molinaro

Red Hook

Legislature Chairman **Gregg Pulver (R-19)**

Global warming, anyone? Get more AC?

rf you live in a city, the 2.7-degree change expected L globally in the next decade or so will actually be 7.2 degrees in cities. Why? Because cities are heat traps and, to make matters worse, air conditioning (AC) removes heat from inside buildings and dumps it outside.

In Manhattan they measure the city's temperature in Central Park, often 15 degrees cooler than the canyons downtown at midday in July. Add humidity to that number and you have Madison Avenue temperatures approaching jungle-stifling heat. Let's not mention the subway system...

Here's what is frightening people fighting to save a habitable, livable, environment for us all: Currently AC accounts for almost 10% of all electricity generated on the planet. Add to that, AC units use refrigerants that are seriously contributory to global warming, labelled "potent greenhouse gases."

Look at it this way: As we cool our private spaces and industry, we're heating the planet further, requiring more cooling it's a vicious circle.

Thirty years ago, the Montreal agreement banned CFCs, which were burning holes in the ozone layer (which reflects a lot of the sun's rays). We instead used hydro-fluoro-carbons (HFCs), which didn't hurt the ozone as much but, it turns out, retain heat brilliantly, adding to the warm blanket around the

HFCs are adding to global warming alarmingly - pound for pound they have thousands more capacity to retain heat than CO2.

Suggestion? Replace HFCs with propane. Yes, you read that right, propane would work just fine and, for the average AC or kitchen refrigerator they use about a half-pound of propane

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

(compared to 25 pounds for your barbecue). As long as it didn't leak (standards need to be set), this would definitely be better for the environment.

How much better? Changing to propane would remove .72 degrees of planet warming over the century. That's one huge leap for a simple fix. Well, not so simple, as regulations and safety technology would have to be mandated, and that takes politics...

Sophie Geoghegan, climate campaigner at the Environmental Investigation Agency, has been plotting the increase in demand for AC use worldwide and says we're on track to triple units installed by 2050 or 5,600,000,000 AC units worldwide. That's almost one per person. Ten new AC units are being sold every second... and if the whole world buys one, along with industry and car manufacturers, you are talking about at least 14,000,000,000 units in operation worldwide

That's unsustainable, for the refrigerants as well as the cost (energy) for making the units. However, by 2030 the energy efficiency of the new units using gasses like propane would save the CO2 emissions of 5.6 gigatons of CO2, which is the equivalent of 1,400 coal fired

Managing Partner power plants being shut down. Clearly the issue of global Robert H. Estabrook 1918-2011 warming is much more complex **Editor** and and threatening that simply say-**Publisher Emeritus** ing, "So what if it gets a degree hotter, I'll just buy AC units."

Peter Riva, a former resident of Amenia Union, now resides in New Mexico.



First snow of the season

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

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SPORTS

The New York City Marathon: One woman's journey

By CYNTHIA **HOCHSWENDER** cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com

PART TWO

CORNWALL, Conn. - OnNov. 7, with only a few weeks training, Elizabeth England walked the entire 26.2 New York City Marathon, an epic undertaking. We began an inside look at what it's like to take part in one of the most famous races in the world in our issue of Nov. 25 (find it online at www. tricornernews.com). This is part two, which begins with a study of how to keep up calories during the day-long marathon.

The night before the marathon, England (who is a resident of Manhattan and of Cornwall, Conn.) "carb loaded" with pasta and broccoli.

On race day, she ate peanut butter and banana on Ezekiel whole-grain bread and drank coconut water. She tucked two RX bars into her new fanny pack, along with her phone and her charger — she carried her charger because she knew that playing music would keep her motivated and moving and she didn't want her phone to die on her before the finish line.

England had hoped to begin the race at around 10 a.m. so she wouldn't be walking through possibly deserted city streets at night in the dark.

The race organizers had other plans for her, however. In some small races, the walkers start the course ahead of time. Not so at the New York City Marathon: The fastest runners leave first. After that, successive waves come to the start line. England and the other walkers were at the end of the list.

"I was in Wave Five. Our start time was at noon."

Imposter syndrome at the Javits Center

The waves are assigned and race bibs are distributed at a

preliminary event at the Jacob Javits Center, an enormous convention and events venue in Manhattan.

"You have to show your vax card and a drivers license to get in. It's like when you're in the pre board for an airline flight. You're not really at your destination yet, and all of you are on the same overnight flight — and some of you are much better prepared for the flight. I've never been with so many fit, intense-looking people in my life."

But, she was quick to add, everyone was friendly and supportive.

"I met a guy who does 7-minute miles; I can't do anything in 7 minutes. When he saw that I was in Wave Five he said 'Whoa, when do you start?' And I said you'll be showered and having brunch by the time I start. He was very sweet and said, 'No, you're going to be great,' and then he got very granular about nutrition products. Everyone has booths there. Jack Rabbit had an island of snacks, the gels and potions you're supposed to eat during the race.

"It's a whole world. I'd been super excited when I'd walked

But being around all the pro marathoners, "I began to have imposter syndrome. It was traumatic."

What helped her overcome her anxiety: Remembering that, in the end, she was taking part in the marathon as a way to come to terms with her grief over the loss of her father.

Race Day: The ferry

On Sunday morning, England and her two race partners "were on the last ferry to leave Manhattan, at 8:45 a.m. After that the ferry is open to the public, so if you miss that ferry you're on your own. But



PHOTO COURTESY FLIZABETH ENGLAND

Elizabeth England kept up a steady pace as she moved through the boroughs while walking the New York City Marathon, ending her trek in under her goal of seven hours.

we made it and got to Staten Island, where they herd you like little cows onto a bus to Fort Wadsworth.

"We got there around 10:15 a.m. and then had a long wait." Dunkin' Donuts has a booth at the start, "you can get coffee

and a bagel." The average athlete might not think of those as great things to ingest before a vigorous workout. There are, England noted, portable lavatories all along the race route but, "everyone is peeing fast. The

porta-potties are gross." Without going into too much detail, England had selected her race pants with this in mind. "No tights." Instead she wore comfortable athletic pants from Outdoor Voices.

Each racer is given a plastic bag, about the size of the largest zipper-seam food storage bag.

"You can only bring what fits into that bag." England had a rain jacket in her bag. Many other people started off the morning in warm clothes that they then peeled off.

"There are blue bins there and people throw their sweats into the bins, and they're then donated to the community."

When Wave Five was called to the start line, "They play 'America the Beautiful' over the loudspeaker, there's a cannon shot and the announcer said, 'You're the last wave. Go!"

Bonking

England knew that there would be sections of the race that would be both mentally and physically challenging. Mile 16 is famously difficult. "At Fort Greene, I started to cry, I turned by 4th Avenue near BAM and I started to cry."

At that point, the road was

Real Estate

who put out their hands to slap high fives to runners to encourage them along. And everywhere there were cow bells.

"The Hassidic neighborhood was fascinating. I was told that when you reach that part of Brooklyn, the women are not allowed to be scantily clad."

And "they can't even look at you" if you're a woman in running gear.

Women would turn to look away as the runners passed through; some continued to cross streets through the athletes, acting as though they didn't exist.

"The shunning was very interesting. Everywhere else there was so much energy. I was thinking of my Dad and growing up in the 'Jewish Berkshires. It was interesting to be in this neighborhood that was so Jewish but so unlike my Dad."

The sections of the race on Manhattan, as you near the finish line, are particularly challenging, of course.

Harlem was excruciating.

"I definitely talked to my Dad through Harlem: 'This is hard, the top of my foot is hurting, there's no one around.'

"But there was this little familv in Harlem with a sign that said, 'We have kisses! Do you want a kiss?' I had my name on my shirt, and they said, 'Come on, Lizzy, do you want a kiss?' They were chocolate kisses. It was manna.

"It was very hard for me at about Mile 24. You have to walk along Central Park South and then re-enter the park. It's psychologically tricky because you enter the park and you think you're done and you're not. You have two more miles

"I'd heard of bonking, when your body loses all its energy, your body can keep moving

narrow and lined with people but your mind is out of it."

There were also runners whose bodies were barely moving. England said her instinct was to want to stop and help everyone she saw who was struggling, but she realized, "everyone is doing their own thing." It's not a group activity; it's quintessentially New York City in the sense that you're surrounded by a mass of people and yet you are very alone.

England's husband met her at two spots along the race course, at Mile 16 and again as she entered Central Park. Her two friends had dropped behind her at the start of the marathon, and had re-entered toward the end (their names are not officially recorded).

"They were done by sunset." England had set a goal of trying to finish the race in seven hours. Her time was 6 hours 45 minutes and five seconds.

"At the end I got a little blue fleecy Marathon poncho; they didn't do the silver Mylar blankets. And I wore my medal all day on Monday."

The Motherland

More important even than the medal, though, was the journey the Marathon offered through her life.

"My mom moved down here from the Berkshires and I lived with my Dad in Lenox. I was born in 1963, so in the 1970s I would travel Route 7 to come visit her. I always knew New York City, it was my mother, so I loved it. But I hadn't been to all the boroughs; so part of the marathon was going to all the boroughs, my Motherland."

And of course, her father.

In the end, she realized of the Marathon, "This all makes sense to me, this is how I would mourn my Dad. He was such an athlete, always moving. My Dad was my everything."

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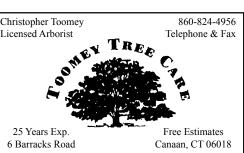
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