



AMENIA

Wassauc Fire Company Offers Some St. Patty's Day Fare From Firehouse **A3**



MILLBROOK

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FILE PHOTO
Former North East town Supervisor John Merwin, second from left, joined county representatives in honoring then Millerton Police Officer and now Millerton Officer-in-Charge Mike Veeder, far right, when he was named one of Dutchess County's Top Cops on Feb. 3, 2017. Veeder contributed to the village's recently adopted police reform plan, mandated statewide by Governor Andrew Cuomo.

Millerton adopts police reform plan with full board support

By **KAITLIN LYLE**
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MILLERTON — Having committed a great deal of time, research and outreach toward the development of the community's police reform plan, the Village Board was grateful to have a finalized plan to adopt at its meeting on Monday, March 22, well in time for Governor Andrew Cuomo's April 1 deadline.

Starting at 6 p.m., the meeting was live streamed to the "Village of Mil-

lerton VOM" Facebook page due to the COVID-19 health crisis; members of both the Village Board and the Joint Village of Millerton and Town of North East Police Committee were in attendance.

From the Village Board and the North East Town Board to North East town Supervisor Chris Kennan, Millerton Officer-in-Charge Mike Veeder and all the community members who were involved in its development, Mayor Debbie Middlebrook said, "I appreciate the time that

everybody took to participate in this policy."

Middlebrook read aloud the resolution authorizing the Village Board's adoption of the plan and Village Clerk Kelly Kilmer dictated the resolution so a certified copy of that resolution could be sent to the New York State Department of the Division of the Budget, along with any other requirements for Cuomo's Executive Order (EO). After sending

See **POLICE REFORM, A6**

Migdale Castle developer asks town to drop neighbors' petition

By **JUDITH O'HARA BALFE**
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WASHINGTON — The Town of Washington (TOW) Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) held a routine meeting on Tuesday, March 16, with a small number of the public attending via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the meeting started with a discussion about a lighting and signage issue at the Route 44 Gulf gas station, it was shortly interrupted by attorney Charles Gottlieb, who said another meeting was simultaneously going on

via Zoom, accessible via the TOW website, with about 80 people in attendance expecting to speak about the Second Mountain project.

Gottlieb is representing one of the groups opposing the Second Mountain project that seeks to convert Migdale Castle in Mabbettville into a luxury hotel/spa/getaway with condos and a slew of recreational amenities on roughly 350 acres. Second Mountain is facing legal challenges from two groups of neighbors thus far, along with vocal opposition for countless others in the community (for more, go to www.

tricornernews.com).

The two simultaneous Zoom meetings occurred in error, without the ZBA realizing it. The smaller meeting that was discussing the gas station had extremely poor audio, so ZBA Chair John Parisi decided those who wanted to could sign out of that meeting and join the other one could. Resident Howard Schuman asked first that his recommendations on the Gulf lighting matter be entered into the official ZBA minutes, which was done.

See **MIGDALE CASTLE, A6**

Pine Plains takes the lead

The big push for regional broadband

By **WHITNEY JOSEPH**
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PINE PLAINS — It's been more than nine months in the making, although it took more like an evening for the primary members of the Pine Plains Broadband Committee to pull what they had compiled into a finalized report and actually write it up in preparation to present it to Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro. That's exactly what committee Chair Steve Neil along with town Supervisor Darrah Cloud and member Matt Finley did in the hours leading up to Friday, March 26. Finley and Neil co-authored the report. Its findings were submitted to Dutchess County Legislature Chairman Gregg Pulver (R-19), of Pine Plains, last week. It will be handed to Molinaro in the next couple of weeks.

Other key committee members like John Forelle, Pine Plains Central School District (PPCSD) Superintendent Martin Handler, Jim Petrie and Michael Stabile participated in the lengthy process along with some past

"I think it would really benefit a lot of people here; it would benefit the businesses here, the supermarket would benefit, the hardware store."

Darrah Cloud, Town Supervisor

members and representatives from the neighboring communities of North East, Amenia and Stanford, who Cloud invited with open arms. Pine Plains also worked with some county and state representatives along with leaders from Columbia County — anyone it could to try to improve its broadband infrastructure.

Broadband Committee goals

The goal of the committee was simple: To connect the "digital divide" created by the lack of high-speed internet access in those homes and businesses that don't currently have broadband connectivity.

See **BROADBAND, A6**

Students to return to Pine Plains schools four days a week

By **KAITLIN LYLE**
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PINE PLAINS — Pine Plains Central School District (PPCSD) administrators brought families up to speed on the upcoming transition to a four-day in-person instruction model in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, at two virtual presentations on Wednesday, March 24. Classes will restart in the flesh on Monday, April 5.

The public had two opportunities to view the Zoom presentation live online at www.ppcsd.org, at 3:30 and 7 p.m. Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler said the presentations were held after a lot of positive feedback came from parents and staff prior to

reopening schools last fall.

Responding to the question "Why now?" he said even though the New York State Department of Health (DOH) hasn't changed its guidance, the DOH has essentially "kicked the ball back" to county health departments. Handler said the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health reported Dutchess County's COVID-19 infection rate is low and all county school districts are doing "very aggressive" mitigation efforts with "virtually no infections taking place in schools."

After reviewing its plans, the county

See **SCHOOLS PREPARE, A6**



Lady Warriors hit the soccer field

Highlights on A6; For full coverage of recent games and a team photo, go to www.tricornernews.com.

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OPINION

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MILLERTON

Village amends law following complaints of signs

By KAITLIN LYLE
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MILLERTON — The Village Board held a meeting on Monday, March 22, to address recent concerns from residents about a home displaying obscene messages, raising First Amendment issues of how to regulate signs and their content.

The Route 22 residence has a flag outside with the message, “F*** Biden and F*** You For Voting For Him!” that has upset residents including J. Sterling, who said it’s unbecoming for a community that should be welcoming to all, regardless of one’s political views.

The home has flown an upside-down American flag on its property in the past, which also raised concerns with some of the locals at the time. This time, though, Sterling said he brought his concerns to the village for

fear of the anger escalating; he was told that four other residents filed complaints as well.

“I advocate for free speech,” Sterling said, “but this is a vulgarity on a main road with both heavy auto and pedestrian traffic, including children.”

Sterling, who acknowledged he is a Democrat, added if the situation were reversed and the offensive flag had targeted former President Donald Trump, he would have felt just as upset and would have still wanted the flag removed.

At the Village Board meeting on March 22, Village Attorney Ian MacDonald spoke about the link between sign laws and First Amendment rights. He explained the rules are very complicated and “there are some things that arguably may not hold up under the current climate.”

The general rule, he said, is

that the village’s authority to regulate the content of signs is more restricted than non-content based regulations, and there’s no specific restriction in the village sign law that says a resident can’t put offensive, obscene or profane language in a sign, banner or flag.

After talking with Millerton Building Inspector Ken McLaughlin, MacDonald said there may be ways the village can regulate existing signs even before amending the sign law. He said this will make it clear to anyone in the future that they can’t put offensive, obscene or profane language or images in their signs, flags, billboards and banners. He explained this wouldn’t be a content-based restriction since it would apply uniformly to any sign, and the village wouldn’t be regulating the sign’s content so much as the particular language used.

“To me, it’s a shame that we have to tell people that they can’t put a big sign with an obscenity out on the front of their yard or the front of their house,” Mayor Debbie Middlebrook said, “but I guess that’s where we’re at.”

Trustee Matthew Hartzog asked later if it would be possible to spell out in a resolution certain symbols that Millerton recognizes as symbols of hate speech or the defamation of symbols as partial hate speech, or whether that would be too restrictive. MacDonald said it could make it much more complicated as it describes more of a content-based restriction.

“To say that you can’t restrict content is not entirely accurate,” MacDonald said, “but it is much harder to do that and survive challenges because the bar is set a lot higher where you have content-based restrictions. It’s going to be subject to what’s called ‘strict scrutiny’ in the First Amendment analysis that the court would engage in, so it’s much easier to challenge that than content neutral.”

“The proposed local law is more of a content neutral [law] because you’re not restricting

the particular content of the sign — you’re saying you can’t use profane language whatever that message is.”

Reminding the board that the First Amendment protects all speech regardless of whether or not it’s offensive, MacDonald noted “what’s offensive to one person may not be offensive to another.”

He added that it may be worth looking at the village’s entire sign code, Section 170-41, as he believes it warrants updating. Furthermore, he said the board could look at it in the context of determining what it wants to regulate, what it has the authority to do and what would be considered content based and non-content based.

Meanwhile, Jody Miller, chair of the Dutchess County Commission on Human Rights, said New York State does not legally define hate speech.

She did say the U.N. Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech does, as “any kind of communication in speech, writing or behavior that attacks or uses pejorative or discriminatory language with reference to a person or a group on the basis of who they are... based on their

religion, ethnicity, nationality, race, color, descent, gender or other identity factor.”

Back at the meeting, the board unanimously amended the local sign law, prohibiting profane language on any sign, billboard, flag or banner in the village. It then set a public hearing for Monday, April 19, at 6 p.m. via Zoom and on the “Village of Millerton VOM” Facebook page.

Though there were questions at the meeting regarding “hate speech,” Middlebrook later explained that this particular amendment is narrowly defined to address profane language.

She said the sign law will be enforced by the zoning enforcement officer (ZEO) pursuant to the village code, which gives the village the authority to prosecute any violations as misdemeanors in town court with a potential fine of up to \$1,000 for each week the violation exists.

“We have advised those that have called the village office with regard to the issue that we are working with the village attorney to address it,” Middlebrook said. “There is a process to be followed and we are following the process.”

North East broadband survey goes live on town website

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

NORTH EAST — The town of North East was motivated to create its own broadband task force about two months ago, after Pine Plains town Supervisor Darrah Cloud reached out to North East and surrounding communities on behalf of her town’s own broadband committee, asking them to collaborate. (For more on the Pine Plains committee, read this week’s front page and the editorial on Page B4.)

Cloud and her committee worked for more than nine months on a broadband plan, which they just completed last week and intend to submit to the county executive in the immediate future in hopes of garnering millions in stimulus funding to improve broadband service in northeastern Dutchess County. The regional approach made sense to Cloud, and to North East resident and tech expert Rich Stalzer, who was made chair of the North East Broadband Access Advisory Committee (BAAC).

Stalzer attended numerous Pine Plains Broadband Committee meetings and worked with Pine Plains on its survey, which is in a state of limbo due to the pandemic. He announced in an interview on Friday, March 26, that North East just went live with its own broadband survey that day; it can be found on the town’s official website, www.townofnortheastny.gov.

It should take roughly five minutes to respond to the Internet Access Survey, which will help the BAAC “determine where internet access is satisfactory, unsatisfactory, unavailable, too slow or too costly for our residents and businesses,” according to the website.

“We’re hoping to get a pretty good picture of the community, and if people respond, we will be ecstatic,” said Stalzer. “Then we can start figuring out which

roads people can’t get the internet on.”

“The survey, which is just literally being released right now, is available in a paper version and there’s also an electronic e-version that people can access via the town’s website,” added town Supervisor Chris Kennan.

He explained that according to the Comprehensive Plan update that passed two years ago, “one of the goals was to increase the availability of broadband to people in the town.”

He hopes the survey will help; it’s available in English and Spanish.

Kennan added that the need for high-speed internet became increasingly apparent after the pandemic hit.

“We had a lot of families with kids who needed to attend schools virtually that became a glaring and really challenging problem for many families,” he said. “So that was when we started to see that broadband accessibility is not a luxury, but really is a necessity in today’s world.”

The supervisor asked why “we have companies like Optimum that string wire, but don’t string it everywhere? Why they’re not legally required to go down everywhere is not easy to understand.”

Kennan added that seeing towns like Ancram in Columbia County and neighboring Pine Plains work so hard on the broadband issue inspired him to form North East’s broadband committee. He is an ex-officio member; in addition to him and Stalzer there are four others in the group.

Kennan said the bottom line is that providing broadband is expensive in rural areas, and prohibits a lot of cable and internet companies from investing in doing so.

“Other companies that are internet service providers could come in here but are disincentivized to come in and lay new wire; it’s a pretty high cost,” he said.

Stalzer agreed, adding “it’s

us versus somebody else: Who can they make the most money off of?”

“We suffer from low population density in many ways,” added Kennan. “It’s one of reasons why we don’t have a food market.”

Stalzer said Ancram has also done a broadband survey, and that the Webutuck school district likewise conducted a survey, sending it to students’ homes. One of the questions asked about internet service. About 5% of students said they don’t have internet at home, but Stalzer said that is “under-reported because families don’t always pay their bills.”

He added that “both the school district and the North-East-Millerton Library have been handing out mobile hot spots during the pandemic similar to cellular devices, but some roads don’t work well so that’s not a solution either. There are all sorts of ways to bridge the gap, but the real way to do so in 2021 is to make sure people have reliable broadband service.”

Once the survey results are collected and tabulated in about two month’s time, Stalzer plans to compose a report like Pine Plains did.

“We’ll see where the data takes us,” he said.

The broadband committee will submit the report to the North East Town Board and “share it with whatever higher governmental layers are interested,” said Stalzer, adding that will include State Assemblymember Didi Barrett (D-106) and U.S. Rep. Antonio Delgado (NY-D-19).

Kennan added as a final note that the town is aiming to have the committee’s report in hand by the end of the year, which he hopes will ultimately lead to funds that can help it improve its broadband infrastructure. There’s even a chance of possibly getting some stimulus funding, according to the Pine Plains committee. For more on that, turn to the front page.



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Little turtle, big world

Climbing atop the surface of some water-logged branches, a little turtle was spotted looking out at the landscape at Rudd Pond in Millerton last week, enjoying the springtime weather.

 **The MILLERTON NEWS**
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Correcting Errors

We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning. Notice of such error must be given to us after the first run of the advertisement.

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MILLERTON IN BRIEF

Let's Draw Virtual Art Meet-Up

Artists and creators of all ages are welcome to join NorthEast-Millerton Library Youth Services Coordinator Kristin McClune for a Virtual Art Meet-Up on Tuesdays at 4 p.m.

Beginners, nervous artists, writers and anyone looking to have fun making art together are welcome. Attendees will need blank paper and drawing utensils, such as markers, pens, colored pencils, crayons or oil pastels.

To RSVP, email kmcclune@nemillertonlibrary.org. Registrants will be emailed the Zoom link prior to the event.

OFA needs volunteers to deliver meals

The Dutchess County Office for the Aging's (OFA) Home Delivered Meals program is in immediate need of volunteer drivers to bring nutritious meals to homebound seniors in Millerton and nearby in northeastern Dutchess County.

Volunteers with their own vehicles and licenses are encouraged to join the team; volunteers may choose which days to deliver the meals.

Hours are between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., weekdays. Mileage can be reim-

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

bursed. COVID-19 safety protocols are observed.

To find out more, call the OFA at 845-486-2555 or email ofa@dutchessny.gov.


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Vernal pools are beginning to come to life and are full of breeding amphibians such as wood frogs, peepers, jefferson and spotted salamanders to mention a few. The sounds of croaking would be the wood frogs, who are among the first to arrive at the pools. These vernal pools are protected by both the State and local wetland regulations as they are critical habitat. An excellent article is: Conserving Pool-Breeding Amphibians in Residential and Commercial Developments. This will help to understand the importance of vernal pools and how to protect them. Happy to send a PDF copy of this upon request.



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Dover schools' water system found to be contaminated

By KAITLIN LYLE
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DOVER PLAINS — In coordination with the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health (DBCH), the New York State Department of Health (DOH) issued "Do Not Drink" advisories for Dover Middle School and High School on Wednesday, March 17, after contaminants were detected in the schools' water systems.

The DOH issued a press release that was posted on the Dover Union Free School District website at www.doverschools.org. The advisories were issued in response to the discovery of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) in the schools' water systems during a standard system check. The contaminants were detected at levels above New York's Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) of 10 parts per trillion each for PFOA and PFOS. Additionally, elevated levels of a similar, unregulated contaminant called perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) were detected during the check.

According to state officials,

the DOH issued state regulations in 2020 that set MCLs for PFOA and PFOS; PFHxA doesn't have an MCL.

The MCLs process requires water systems of all sizes to test for contaminants that are all regulated. If the test finds a contaminant exceeds the MCL, the consumer must be notified so a process can be set up to bring the water system back into compliance, though how that's done varies with each system. Under the umbrella of man-made chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), PFOA, PFOS and PFHxA can be found in a variety of consumer products, including cleaning products, food packaging, stain repellents and cookware.

According to the DOH, the available information on how those chemicals impact one's health is mostly based on studies done on high-exposure in animals, and "less is known about the chances of health effects occurring from lower levels of exposure, such as from drinking the schools' water."

Because the contaminant can stay both in the environment and in the human body for long periods of time, the

American Cancer Society website, www.cancer.org, said PFOA has the potential to be a health concern.

Though "studies have found that it is present worldwide at very low levels in just about everyone's blood," the website said higher blood levels have been found in residents where local water supplies have been contaminated by PFOA.

While the state's MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are protective against these health effects, the DOH warns it's prudent to take interim "Do Not Drink" measures to reduce exposure when levels rise above the MCLs.

"This is an example of the MCL process working as designed," said DOH Spokesperson Gary Holmes. "It requires water systems of all sizes to test for this compound using very protected levels, notify the consumer if there's an exceedance and work on a long-term plan to bring the system back into compliance. All these efforts are well underway."

As told by state officials, the presence of all three chemicals in the Dover schools' water systems is an indicator that a closer look must be taken at the water supply to determine what

steps are needed to bring the system back into compliance.

As part of the "Do Not Drink" advisory, Dover Middle and High School have been told to stop using the water for drinking, cooking and preparing food. The water can be used for hand washing and certain cleaning (such as washing dishes).

The state has been coordinating with Dutchess County and the Dover school district to provide bottled water.

Dover Superintendent of Schools Michael Tierney explained that, because of COVID-19, the district had already turned off its water fountains, substituting bottled water and installing a filling station for water bottles. He said the district has been cooking with bottled water and is working with the DOH to secure more water.

While the school district is working closely with the DBCH and state agencies to collect additional water samples and discuss long-term solutions for improving its water quality, the DOH is working with the state's Department of Environmental Conservation to identify and address potential sources of contamination.



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Working in an assembly line, members of the Wassaic Fire Company packaged 200 drive-thru dinners in honor of St. Patty's Day, which included corned beef, potatoes, cabbage, rolls and dessert.

Meals that matter

WASSAIC — The smell of steaming hot corned beef and cabbage could be found wafting out of the Wassaic firehouse on Saturday, March 27, as members of the Wassaic Fire Company (also known as the "Blue Crew") organized a drive-thru Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner for the community. This marked the company's second drive-thru dinner; the first was a drive-thru ham dinner held this past November.

Running from 4 to 6 p.m., hungry diners drove through the firehouse parking lot to pick up pre-ordered St. Patty's Day meals and were greeted by members of the Blue Crew with a friendly

smile.

The Blue Crew was hard at work packing containers of corned beef, potatoes, cabbage, rolls and dessert in an assembly line in the firehouse. The meals were promptly packaged into plastic bags and delivered to community members in their cars.

With 200 tickets sold, the volunteer firefighters gratefully served the dinners that helped raise much-needed funds, all of which will go toward helping the company continue to do the critical work it does to keep the Wassaic community safe during all sorts of emergencies.

— Kaitlin Lyle

Peace Sanctuary will sell land

By KAITLIN LYLE
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AMENIA — The Amenia Planning Board provided residents an outlet to present their comments and concerns regarding the World Peace Sanctuary's application for a minor subdivision of its property at a virtual public hearing on Wednesday, March 24.

Located at 26 Benton Road in Wassaic, the sanctuary has applied to subdivide its property into two parcels, an action that sanctuary administrator Ann Marie Robustelli has described as "almost as simple as drawing a line through the property."

Once the subdivision is approved and completed, she said a portion of the land — totaling 128 acres — will be available for sale.

"We have not had a grand festival in many years," Robustelli said in reference to the sanctuary's future plans. "Therefore, the feeling is that the remaining 26 acres will suffice in accommodating smaller festivals, public gatherings, workshops, etc., as we continue forward in our mission to promote the universal peace message through our international programs and projects."

Robustelli hoped to allay residents' fears of losing the much loved local resource and amenity by adding, "There will be plenty of acreage left for walks, meditation, picnics, etc., and the newly installed Wisdom Trail won't be affected nor will the Labyrinth or Sacred Grove. Plenty of open space will be ours to use and share celebrations with community and members to continue our workshops and gatherings."

Residents tuned in for the

hearing at 7 p.m. over Zoom due to the COVID health crisis. Building Inspector Michael Segelken explained that neighbors living within 500 feet of any property that submits an application to the town receives a certified letter notifying them of the project's mandated public hearing, with instructions of how to participate if they choose to.

Before the sanctuary's public hearing began on the 24th, Planning Board Attorney Dave Everett said the requisite State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process needed to be done. Town Engineer John Andrews had prepared parts two and three of a draft Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) to get the ball rolling.

Based on the information provided by the applicant and research done by the town, Andrews said the action is a simple two-lot subdivision with no changes to the existing conditions, no development or construction and no site disturbance of any type. It merely involves splitting one existing lot into two smaller lots, he said, and wouldn't be expected to result in any impact that would impair the area's character, quality or cultural resources or bring about any adverse change to the natural resources or endangered species.

The board approved the EAF and made a negative SEQRA declaration (meaning no negative impacts to the environment are expected as a result of the project) prior to opening the public hearing at 7:12 p.m.

Public comments

Gary Finelli, a resident of Sinpatch Road who lives practically right across from the Peace Sanctuary, shared his concerns

regarding an item on the application that said there would be no run-off on the site. Going back to 1992, he said there had been major erosion on his property and the sanctuary responded to his complaints by putting in a ditch to help manage the run-off. Finelli said despite those measures, his property still gets run-off every year.

Looking at the way the sanctuary proposes to subdivide its land, he said it will become a funnel — with the water directed right toward his house. Should there be any kind of future development, he said the runoff issues will only increase — dramatically.

"For the record, I'm against subdividing this property just on the terms of it's a contiguous farm and I think it should stay the size that it is," said Maryanne Pitts, a resident of Route 22, only a few miles away from the sanctuary. "No disrespect to the owners: It was a farm and I think it's going to be problems down the road."

Sharing the sanctuary's front entrance way on Benton Road, Patricia McGrath explained, "The neighbors that have adjoining property are very concerned about this. We realize that there may be very little we can do about the subdivision, but we are extremely worried about what may happen at the sale."

Tom McGrath, Patricia's husband, said he felt there was a lot of secrecy surrounding the sanctuary's desire to subdivide its property and asked if the sanctuary had someone to speak on its behalf. The town said the sanctuary has authorized Kirk Horton, an Amenia land surveyor, to act as its agent in this matter. According to the

town engineer, however, the sanctuary hasn't made Horton aware of any specific plans or proposals with regard to its sale or future activities.

A fellow Benton Road resident, Katherine Thomas, also voiced concerns about the flow of water and the safety of the endangered species in the area, while Mary Ellen Brown of nearby Poplar Hill asked about the property's zoning.

According to Andrews, as it exists today it is located in the rural agriculture zoning district, with portions located in the stream corridor overlay district and the visual protection zone.

By 7:35 p.m., the Planning Board closed the public hearing. Given the concerns linked to drainage issues — among others — board members suggested Andrews look into the zoning concerns for their next meeting.

The engineer said he would reach out to Amenia Highway Superintendent Megan Chamberlin and see if she would accompany him for a site visit, given the highway superintendent's previous experience with such issues.

DUTCHESS COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

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

Drug arrests

On Wednesday, March 24, the Dutchess County Drug Task Force arrested 32-year-old Amenia resident Ashley Sniffen. The arrest was a result of joint investigation with the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office regarding narcotics sales in the Harlem Valley area.

Sniffen was taken into custody on Route 343 in the town of Amenia and was found to be in possession of approximately 140 bags of heroin/fentanyl and several rocks of crack cocaine.

Sniffen was charged with:

Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 3rd degree, class B felony.

Sniffen was arraigned in the Town of Amenia Court and released. Additional charges may be pending.

Also arrested during the investigation was 26-year-old Amenia resident Tyler Recchia.

Recchia was wanted on two Dutchess County Court Felony warrants. Recchia was turned over to Millerton Police Department for processing.


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.

Nothing is fresher than local business

Who knew when Mark and Big Rock Farms opened a produce stand in Stanfordville in 2007 that it would grow to a market that carries products from more than 60 area farms and artisans? Very local, very fresh.

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AREA IN BRIEF

Estate planning on Zoom April 19

COPAKE — Learn the basics of estate planning at a free Zoom workshop presented by the Roeliff Jansen Community Library, Hudson Area Library, Claverack Free Library and Pihlmont Public Library on Monday, April 19, at 6 p.m.

Join Lorraine Coyle of Coyle & Associates LLP to learn about wills, trusts, power of attorney, health care proxies and Medic-

Amenia Fire Company Chicken Barbecue

AMENIA — The Amenia Fire Company will be sponsoring a take-out only chicken barbecue on Saturday, April 10, at the Amenia firehouse, 36 Mechanic St.

It will be a drive-thru style

aid planning to protect assets should one need nursing home care. Email directory@roejanlibrary.org to register.

For information on Roe Jan hours and events, call 518-325-4101 or go to www.roejanlibrary.org, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/roejanlibrary, or on Instagram at www.instagram.com/roejanlibrary/.

event, with dinners ready for pickup between the hours of 3 and 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 each and are available on a pre-order basis. To place an order, call 845-418-8633.

STEM Saturdays

AMENIA — The Amenia Free Library is offering a STEM Saturdays program for students in grades sixth through eighth (ages 11 to 14).

This program is offered by the Bard Center for Civic Engagement and the Amenia Free Library, the NorthEast-Millerton Library, the Pine Plains Free Library and Scoville Memorial Library in Salisbury, Conn.

For more information, stop by the library (at 3309 Route 343, Amenia) or go to its website at www.amenialibrary.org.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

Easter services and events in the Harlem Valley

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

HARLEM VALLEY — Easter Sunday arrives this weekend, April 4. Although the coronavirus pandemic is still raging, and some fear a fourth wave, more than 3 million New Yorkers have already received their COVID vaccines as of Friday, March 26, and on Tuesday, March 30, the eligibility age dropped to 30; on April 6 it drops to 16.

Those who haven't been inoculated — as well as those who have, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) — are hopefully continuing to wear their face masks, social distance, hand wash and follow all other proper hygiene rituals to ensure they and their loved ones stay healthy and safe.

Taking all of these health guidelines into account, a number of churches and other community organizations have gone ahead and planned for Easter services and other spring holiday celebrations this year (see special section on Page B1). Below is a list of some of the local events taking place, most in person and some virtually, a relief for those anxious to say hello to friend and neighbors, many not seen for months.

The Millerton News both made inquiries of and sent out requests to organizations potentially holding events asking for submissions; we could only print the responses received by press time. What follows below, therefore, may not be a complete list of local activities. We recommended calling ahead to confirm all events before attending.

Millerton

The Millerton Presbyterian Church invites everyone in the community to its Easter Sunday Service on April 4, at 9 a.m., in the sanctuary at 58 Main St., Millerton. Social distancing and masks will be required.

In lieu of the annual Millerton Gun Club's Easter Egg Hunt this year due to the health crisis, the Millerton Fire Company will be having an Easter Bunny Run for local children during the day on Saturday, April 3.

Families that would like a visit with the Easter Bunny are advised to drop a note with their name, address and phone number in front of the mailbox installed in front of the firehouse at 24 Century Blvd. in Millerton by Wednesday, March 31.

Millbrook

St. Joseph-Immaculate Conception Catholic Church will hold a Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 1, at 7 p.m. Guests may visit the repository until 11 p.m.

On Good Friday, April 2, the church will hold a Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 4 p.m. and Stations of the

Cross at 7 p.m.

There will be a Blessing of the Easter Foods at 11 a.m. on Holy Saturday, April 3, and an Easter Vigil at 8 p.m.

The church will hold Easter Sunday Mass at 8 a.m., 10:15 a.m., noon and 5 p.m.

Grace Episcopal Church will hold Maundy Thursday Liturgy on April 1 at 7 p.m. Good Friday services will be on April 2 at 7 p.m. There will be a Great Vigil of Easter Saturday at the church on April 3 at 7 p.m. Easter Sunday Services will be held at Grace Church on April 4 at 10 a.m. Reservations are required; call the office at 845-677-3064.

Following Easter Services at 11 a.m., Grace Church will offer a Distribution of Communion in the Memorial Garden, an Easter Egg Hunt and refreshments.

Lyall Federated Memorial Church will hold Easter Sunday Sunrise Services on April 4 at Nine Partners Cemetery on Route 343 and Nine Partners Road at 8 a.m.

Lyall Church will also hold a Mass at 10:25 a.m. on Easter Sunday; all services will be online and available on Zoom.

Masks and social distancing are required.

The Town of Washington Recreation Department will sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3, from 10:30 to 10:50 a.m. and from 11 to 11:20 a.m.

The egg hunts are for pre-schoolers through third-graders living in the community and each child should bring their own basket; everyone who attends must wear a mask.

The egg hunts will be held on the soccer fields at the Town of Washington Park. Parking will be available by the pool.

Registration is required; go to www.washingtonny.org for more information and to pick a time slot. Registration is limited to 50 children; 25 will be allowed at each hunt.

Amenia

The Amenia Recreation Commission invites the community for some Easter fun on Saturday, April 3, at the town's annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Start time will be at 10 a.m. sharp; the hunt will be held at Beekman Park, located at 5270 Route 44. This year's event is sponsored by Silo Ridge Field Club, Dutchess County Realty, Rebillard Public Relations, Amenia Four Brothers Pizza Inn and Jack's Auto Service.

Though admission is free, families must pre-register at www.ameniany.myrec.com.

COVID-19 restrictions will apply and all families that attend the event must wear masks and follow social distancing guidelines.

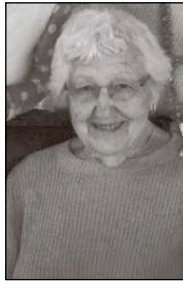
Pine Plains

The town of Pine Plains has already held its Easter Egg Hunt.

OBITUARIES

Ursula Emma Foster

PINE PLAINS — Ursula Emma Foster, 96, of Town Center Road, died March 24, 2021, at Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in North Canaan. She was the beloved wife of the late Edgar Foster.



Ursula was born July 29, 1924, in Bad Odesloe, Germany, the daughter of the late Adolph and Gertrude Bruhn. She was a pediatric nurse for many years and later became a nursery school teacher.

She is survived by her daughters, Jeanette Wrieske and her husband, Gerhard, and Diane

Cawley and her husband, Michael; a sister, Edith Colanari; her grandchildren, Jason and Sasha Wrieske and Kiersten Higgins; her great-grandchildren, Jason, Gavin, Penelope and Olivia Wrieske; many nieces and nephews; and longtime friend and companion Harry Holleufer.

A small family service will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude's Children Research Center.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of the arrangements.

Marvin William Jarrett

MILLERTON — Marvin William Jarrett of Millerton passed away from his earthly life on March 21, 2021.



Marvin was born on March 5, 1937, in Lincoln, N.C., to Victor Marvin Jarrett and Versilee Roberts Jarrett.

Marvin entered the United States Air Force (USAF) after graduating from Dunbar High School in Florida at the age of 17 and was assigned to 750th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron in California. He served in the Korean War and was stationed abroad in the Netherlands for three years.

Upon returning to the United States, Marvin served as a reservist during the Vietnam War and joined the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), becoming a Master Electrician until his retirement in 1992. Marvin was a proud veteran and during his retirement he served in the service of other veterans, advocating for and assisting with their VA benefits.

Marvin is survived by his wife of 63 years, Penny DeLois (Moore); and his four children, Juan Jarrett and his wife, Cristine, of Athens, Ga., Renee Vincent (and her husband, the

late Walter Vincent) of Poughkeepsie, Kedrick Jarrett and partner Kim Wilson of Hampton Beach, Va., and Geri Jarrett and partner Patrick Smith of Elgin, Ill. He is also survived by his brother, Edward Jarrett and his wife, Angie; and his sister, Annette Adams.

He was predeceased by two brothers, James Jarrett and Alton Jarrett.

Marvin is also survived by four grandchildren, Alecia, Eric, Sean and Kieran; and four great-grandchildren, Jerome, Ja'Meera, Jaela and Joshua, who all will miss their devoted grandfather and great-grandfather very much.

A private memorial service for family will take place at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery in April. The United States Air Force Honor Guard will be in attendance.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Millerton Fire Company, P.O. Box 733, Millerton, NY 12546.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton.

To send an online condolence or flowers to the family, go to www.conklinfuneralhome.com.

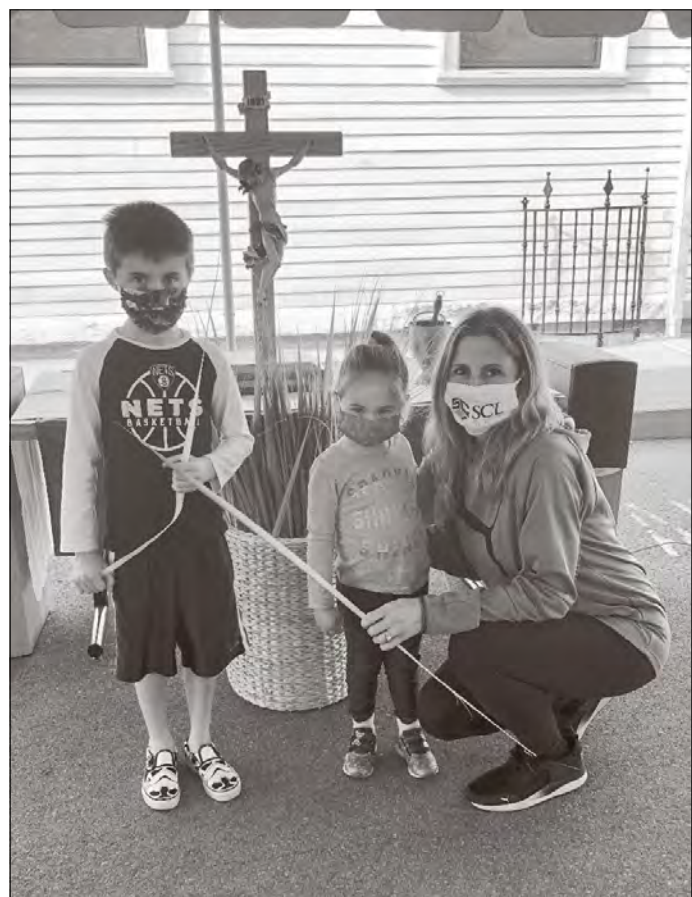


PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

On Saturday, March 27, at 5 p.m., 7-year-old Thomas Carroll, a student at Elm Drive Elementary School, and his 3-year-old sister, Lila, listened as their mom, Melissa, explained the meaning of the palms and the story of Easter at St. Joseph-Immaculate Conception Church in Millbrook during Palm Sunday Services.

Palm Sunday Services

MILLBROOK — St. Joseph-Immaculate Conception Church in Millbrook held Palm Sunday Services inside of the church and outside as well, in a tent next to the church building.

While many preferred to experience the Mass inside of church, about 25 or so of the parishioners seemed to enjoy the nice spring weather and the

socially distanced outdoor seating as they listened to the service, which included a number of people reading the story of Easter, the Last Supper and the Crucifixion.

The church said it will also offer tented outdoor Masses for Easter Sunday Services as well on April 4.

— Judith O'Hara Balfe

Michael Elmer Silvernale

LAKEVILLE — Michael Elmer Silvernale, 60, a three-and-a-half year resident of Connecticut, formerly a longtime resident of St. Petersburg, Fla., and Millerton, died peacefully on March 27, 2021, at Sharon Hospital following a courageous battle with cancer.



Most recently Mike worked in the parts department at Pine Plains Tractor & Equipment in Pine Plains; prior to that, he worked for Northwest Lawn & Landscape in Millerton.

Born May 8, 1960, in Sharon, he was the son of Dorothy "Dot" (Haye) Silvernale of Millerton and the late Jack Silvernale.

He was a graduate of Webutuck High School, Class of 1978, where he excelled at basketball. Following high school he attended SUNY Oneonta. Mike enjoyed spending time with his family and working outdoors in his yard in his spare time.

He will be dearly missed by his loving family and many friends.

In addition to his mother,

Mike is survived by a son, Michael Silvernale and his wife, Nelsy, of Myrtle Beach, S.C.; two grandchildren, Aiden and Mia Silvernale of Myrtle Beach; his sister, Barbara Lattrell and her husband, Jim, of Sharon; his sister-in-law, Veronica Silvernale of Millerton; two nieces, Danielle Brightman and her

husband, Ryan, of Warren, Conn., and Jaime Silvernale of Millerton; and his nephew, Kyle Lattrell and his fiancée, Zoe Harson, of Naples, Fla.

He was predeceased by his brother, Jack G. Silvernale, in 2018.

There are no calling hours. Funeral services will be private. Memorial contributions may be made to the Millerton Fire Company, P.O. Box 733, Millerton, NY 12546.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton.

To send an online condolence or floral tribute to the family, go to www.conklinfuneralhome.com.

Worship Services

Week of April 4, 2021

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

<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Online worship, Sundays at 10am www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>	<p>Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194</p>
<p>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 YouTube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>	<p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 AM Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people Pastor Savage Frieze 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am AT THE PILGRIM HOUSE 30 GRANITE AVE, CANAAN: FISHES & LOAVES Food Pantry and CLOSETS for clothing Tuesdays from 5 to 7 and Thursdays from noon to 2 www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational</p>	<p>Greenwoods Community Church, MA 355 Clayton Road, Ashley Falls, MA Sunday Service 10:30 AM Kidz Connection K-6th grade (during Sun. Service) Nursery Care All Services Pastor Trip Weiler 413-229-8560 www.greenwoodschurch.com</p>
<p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:45 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Margaret Laemmel 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p>St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>	<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd., Lime Rock Virtual Sunday service 10:30 AM Trinity Lime Rock Facebook page Virtual Coffee Hour & Bible Study Rev. Heidi Truax trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627 www.trinitylimerock.org</p>
<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9am Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mrgates125@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!</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Join our virtual service on Sunday, April 11 at 10:30 a.m. "Love" For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoui@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:30 a.m. Worship Service Sunday School 9:15 a.m. "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Margaret Laemmel 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>
<p>Sharon Congregational Church 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for current online sermons. Bible Study Guides also available by request: info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org Or contact us at 860-364-5002</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville EASTER TRIDUUM Immaculate Conception Church, Norfolk Holy Thursday, April 1st • 7:00pm Good Friday, April 2nd • 5:00pm Easter Vigil/Liturgy of Light, April 3rd • 8:00pm EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4TH St. Mary's Church, Lakeville 9:00am St. Joseph's Church, Canaan 11:00am ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH 860-927-3003 The Churches of Sacred Heart, Kent St. Bernard, Sharon St. Bridget, Cornwall Bridge HOLY THURSDAY 7 PM - St. Bernard GOOD FRIDAY 3 PM - The Passion - St. Bridget HOLY SATURDAY 7 PM - Easter Vigil - Sacred Heart EASTER SUNDAY MASSES 10 AM - Sacred Heart 10 AM - St. Bridget 10 AM - St. Bernard Face masks required</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Congregational Worship Sunday, 10 am Cornwall Village Meeting House 8 Bolton Hill Rd, Cornwall Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 FB - UCC in Cornwall Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 9:30 A.M. 518-789-3138</p>	<p>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</p>

Irondale Schoolhouse and others offer scholarships for local students

For a list of available scholarship opportunities for Webutuck students, go to www.tricornernews.com.

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Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS/AREA

Priority zoning issues focus of ZRC's inaugural meeting

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — For its first meeting as an official committee, the town's Zoning Review Committee (ZRC) dove head-first into examining priority zoning issues on Tuesday, March 9.

Gathering at 7 p.m., ZRC members convened via Zoom and live streamed their meeting to the "Town of Pine Plains" YouTube channel due to the health crisis. Outlining their approach, scope and timeline for updating the town's zoning code, Frank Fish, a planner from BFJ Planning, highlighted the project's six-month timeline (which started last month) as well as the anticipated meetings, revisions and public hearings.

The thought, Fish explained, is not to create a new code, but to instead update, revise and improve the existing zoning code. He noted the update won't be all-encompassing, but would instead be selective in terms of where the ZRC feels its priorities are.

Though he mentioned the group may delve into subdivision details, Fish said an update of the subdivision code isn't included in the contract between the town and BFJ Planning. For the next six months, he said the ZRC will be concentrating on updating the zoning code, and the Town Board will have to decide whether or not to go forward with updating the subdivision code.

Examining the list of priority zoning issues, Fish first focused on the New Neighborhood Development (NND) issue as he sensed that this was no longer a district the town feels is needed in the zoning code.

Using the issues that arose during the second Durst project

as an example, Town Councilwoman Sarah Jones said the NND statute is "very cumbersome" and unhelpful to developers because of the split in authority between the Town Board and Planning Board.

Though he'd normally like to get rid of the NND, Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Chair Scott Chase said he'd like to consider the NND, as it is essentially set up to allow a developer the opportunity to offer benefits to the town in exchange for getting one-third more development rights. If there's going to be any language about continuing or reimplementing the NND, he said there needs to be stronger guidance for the Town Board.

Going back to the priority zoning issues list, Fish said they'd get a sense of where the ZRC's priorities are and what they'll work on in the next few weeks.

"We would like to make decisions tonight on the things that we can so we can hit the ground running," said Taylor Young, another planner from BFJ Planning, adding that if there are any questions or items that need more discussion, they can work on them and make a decision later.

Addressing accessory dwelling units (ADUs), Young asked if there was confusion on which structure the owner must live in. From his knowledge, he said the owner must live in the principal building instead of being able to live in either structure.

"In our previous incarnations, it seemed like an opportunity to work towards our

goals of increasing opportunity and density within the hamlet," said Town Councilman Rory Chase.

Considering a more permissive stance, Chase said that, even if it wasn't owner occupied, he'd be OK with the ADU being another rental property inside the hamlet, adding that the ADU and the principal building could both be rental properties.

From an enforcement point of view, Building Inspector Drew Weaver said he'd like to see at least one building owner occupied. With Fish and Young guiding their conversation, ZRC members talked about the size restrictions for ADUs as featured in the current zoning code along with issues of discretion, flexibility and issues of setbacks in the hamlet.

Among other zoning issues discussed at the meeting, the ZRC looked at zero lot line zoning, which Young said would involve a home or a set of homes that would share a wall in the center. Currently, he said he didn't believe this would be allowed due to setbacks whereas the town could have two combined or semi-detached town homes on one lot.

Though he drew the ZRC's attention to issues related to septic and lot size, Fish said they had a couple of models in other towns that Young researched to see what those towns did. Young said they could also talk about smaller lots in the hamlet.

The ZRC's next Zoom meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13, at 7 p.m. and will be live streamed to the "Town of Pine Plains" YouTube channel.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

With its comfortable rooms and cozy atmosphere, many a first-time and returning guest at the Inn at Pine Plains has likened the inn to "a home away from home" over the years.

Inn at Pine Plains wins Loved by Guests 'Most Wanted' award

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Likened by first-time and returning visitors alike as a "home away from home" throughout its six years of operation, the Inn at Pine Plains was named winner of the www.hotels.com Loved by Guests "Most Wanted" award for 2021.

As featured by the www.hotels.com Guest Review Team, the Loved by Guests "Most Wanted" awards are "exclusively granted to properties with the highest guest rating scores in the world." With this annual program designed to recognize partners that deliver exceptional service to customers of hotels.com, the award is based solely on guest reviews.

"It's been spectacular," said hotel owner Jack Banning, who coyly calls himself the inn's landlord. "It doesn't seem possible we've been going on six years at this point, and it's the service of the community as we hoped it would be in addition to the fact that it's a favorite destination for people — they keep coming back."

Located at 3036 Church St., just a walk away from the action of the hamlet center, the inn first opened in October of 2015 and has since established itself as a welcoming place for visitors from all over, whether they're en route to other destinations or staying for a special occasion. With eight weddings and a 50th class reunion anticipated for this year, innkeeper Patti Vincent

said things are slowly coming back to life at the inn as people are feeling more comfortable leaving their homes despite the coronavirus pandemic predicted to possibly hit a fourth wave.

Describing the experience she hopes guests receive from the moment they check in to their checkout time, Vincent said, "They feel very much at home, and they feel very comfortable once they walk in. The building is deceiving — once you get in, you're amazed by how much bigger it is. We've got the four rooms on the first floor and the four suites on the second floor."

As far as how the inn fared when COVID-19 struck, Vincent said the inn closed for almost the first two months of the pandemic. Around last spring, the inn slowly opened for business and accepted reservations.

Nowadays, guests arrive wearing face masks and bring their own sanitizing wipes, and while Vincent can still sense their fear, she said it's getting better and hopes it will continue to improve once more people get vaccinated.

In the meantime, she said she and the staff try to let the rooms sit for 24 hours and wipe everything down with Lysol spray and wipes. She hopes guests feel more comfortable knowing this.

"It's a very clean inn," Vincent said, "and that's why I have so many people come back — they just feel so comfortable."

Right now, Vincent said she doesn't even see guests that much as they're either biking, hiking,

exploring the local trails or otherwise spending time outdoors. As guests continue to socially distance and be conscious of COVID-19 protocols, she said they have the option of ordering take-out meals and bringing them to their rooms. In the mornings, Vincent prepares a to-go breakfast with everything individually wrapped for guests to take with them on the run.

While she doesn't know if she'll ever go back to the inn's former continental breakfast option, she said the to-go breakfast seems to be working with no complaints.

Vincent said receiving the recent award was very exciting especially as it was based on guest reviews.

"It makes me feel good and I share that with my help all the time," she said "and I have a great cleaning crew that works very hard and they enjoy reading the reviews too, or me reading them to them; it makes you feel good."

With more weddings expected to return to the Hudson Valley region this year, Vincent said she believes 2021 will be a good year for the inn, and 2022 an even better one. One idea she looks forward to pursuing in the future is being able to show the locals "Christmas Camp," a romantic comedy that was partially shot at the inn in May of 2018. With respect to future plans, she said they're going to have to wait, watch and see.

This is the second time that the Inn at Pine Plains has been recognized with this award.

COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

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

Drug arrest

On March 11, at approximately 9:31 p.m., 24-year-old Daniel Dahdal of Yonkers was arrested for drug possession by Deputy Brian McSween, following a traffic stop on State Route 23 in the town of Copake.

Dahdal was found to be in possession of concentrated cannabis oil cartridges and charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th degree, a class A misdemeanor.

Dahdal was issued appearance tickets to return to Copake Town Court on Monday, March 22, to answer his charges.

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.

Send news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com



PHOTO BY RYAN ORTON

Clockwise, from bottom left, Grangers Julian Couse, Dinner Chairman Therese Fallon, Ben Van Kleck and Jan Brooks helped get the very tempting homemade Chocolate Stout Cake frosted and the homemade Irish Soda Bread cut.

Stanford Grange celebrates St. Patrick's Day with traditional Irish dinner

STANFORDVILLE — The Stanford Grange's Annual Corned Beef Dinner on Friday, March 13, was swamped with diners seeing green.

According to Grange Secretary Ryan J. Orton, "We had some time where I could step away and take some pictures," but barely. Orton said the Grange "served over 100 dinners." Not bad for a St. Patrick's Day dinner during a pandemic. Social distancing, mask wearing and other health guidelines were observed during the event to keep everyone safe.

Throughout the year-long COVID-19 health crisis, the Stanford Grange has done its best to continue offering its programs, activities and events to the community, albeit in an amended version to accommodate the new normal of the coronavirus pandemic.

The March 13th meal consisted of the traditional corned beef and cabbage, plus all of the tempting sides that have kept the hungry supporters of the Grange #808 coming back for more year after year.

— Whitney Joseph

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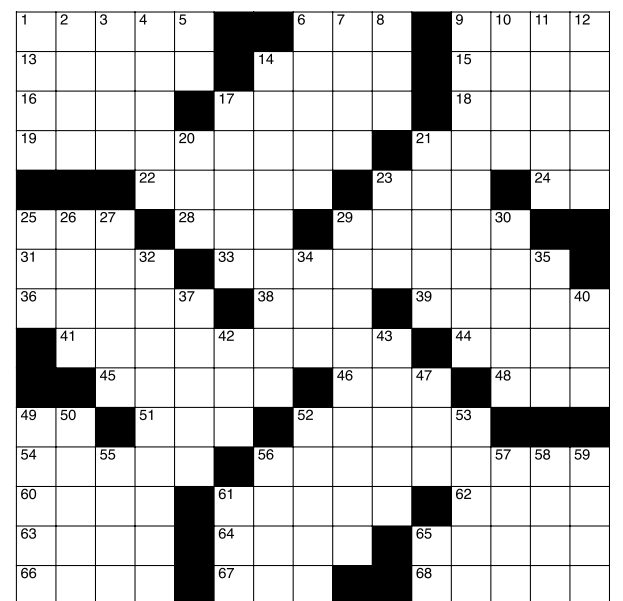
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- One who manufactures
- Science degree
- Database management system
- Desert
- Inventor Musk
- Welsh valley
- Round Dutch cheese
- Saying
- Comedian and TV host
- Uppermost portions of the brain
- City in Transylvania
- Where astronauts go
- Men's hairstyle
- Indicates position
- One point east of due south
- Businessmen may have one
- Grass part
- Running back Gurley
- Unwavering
- Options
- Annoy
- Greek mountain
- Pastas
- Fishes
- Wrap
- Potentially a criminal (slang)
- Seize
- The Constitution State
- Upset
- 1991 men's Wimbledon champ
- Central Chinese province
- Predisposition
- A notice of someone's death
- One-time Kentucky Rep.
- Swiss river
- Dried-up
- Finger millet
- Allan Poe
- German river
- Brew
- Kenyan river

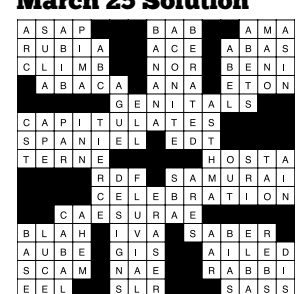
CLUES DOWN

- Millisecond
- Acts as military assistant
- Knot in a tree
- Husband-and-wife industrial designers
- The Ocean State
- Point the finger at
- Parts in a machine
- Midway between northeast and east
- Portray precisely
- Blister
- Mental illness
- Nose of an animal
- What students receive
- Semitic peoples
- Beats per minute
- Family of drugs

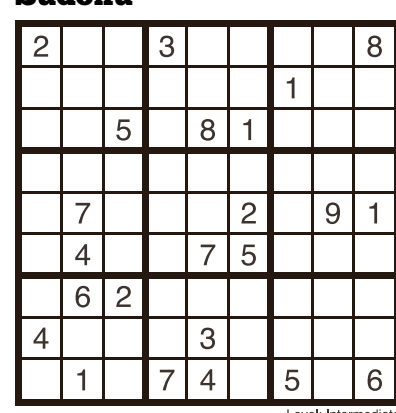


- Atrocious
- Type of microscope (abbr.)
- ___ or bust
- Icelandic poems
- A citizen of Pakistan
- Very pale
- Metric linear unit
- Sea eagle
- Biblical judge of Israel
- Isaac's mother (Bib.)
- Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- Cool!
- Large hotel room
- Type of boat (abbr.)
- Picked
- Type of hookah
- Attack
- Directs
- Belgian WWII resistance fighter
- Finished negotiation
- Heroic tale
- Middle Eastern country
- Protein-rich liquids
- Malaysian Isthmus
- Spielberg's alien

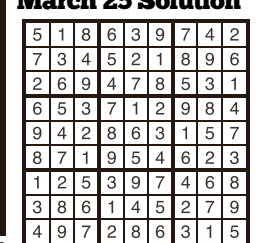
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POLICE REFORM *Continued from Page A1*

it to the Division of the Budget, the village will be eligible to receive state or federal funding for its police department; the governor had threatened that any police agency that didn't comply with his EO could lose that privilege. The plan was unanimously adopted.

Later in the evening, during public comment, a handful of residents spoke about the plan. Among them was Meg Winkler, who thanked the police reform committee as well others who participated in developing the plan.

"I think we all have to remember that we got here from horrible things that've happened in our country that we never thought could happen in a little town or a place like Millerton or the town of North East," Winkler said. "The silver lining, I think, in all of this is it's brought our community together."

Emphasizing that the plan represents the beginning of the community's work, Winkler said this is the chance to "throw the net" and have other people participate in the conversation.

Reviewing the written comments submitted by community members, Kilmer read into the record an email sent by Millerton attorney Joshua Douglass. As part of Executive Order 203, Douglass stated localities were ordered to review their communities' needs and to involve the entire community in the discussion prior to certifying their plans' adoption. He said Millerton hasn't fulfilled these requirements — particularly with respect to involving the community — and hasn't performed its duties in respect to the Executive

Order. Moving forward, he said Millerton needs to commit in writing to continuing the process of reviewing police policies and expand the joint police committee to include a more diverse demographic.

Having sat through almost every joint police committee meeting and both public hearings on the reform plan, Kilmer, a resident of Millerton, said she wanted to comment on this issue, but wasn't sure if she should as she also works for the village. Recognizing her unique perspective regarding the Millerton Police Department, she said she's observed the police department's operations every day both on the job and because it shares the same building as Village Hall.

Offering her comments as both a village resident and as a village employee, Kilmer said, "There's an old saying in government, 'When an issue comes up, you should approach it with a scalpel, not a machete.' That is exactly why this directive was handed down to our municipality the way it was, because each community is different and this directive reflects that old saying to a tee."

In light of what's happening now with policing, Kilmer said she couldn't agree more that "police reform is necessary in so many places" and that a reckoning of overall policy should be the tone regardless of where a police officer serves. Drawing from her observations and understanding of the Millerton Police Department's policies and conduct, she said, "Millerton is not one of those places that needs to reinvent its policing... Reinventing what isn't a problem is not necessary."

BROADBAND *Continued from Page A1*

"There was a recognition that this is a big issue," said Neil, "and as the pandemic rolled along it became even more obvious how big of an issue. It's even a bigger issue because of the pandemic. I don't have kids, but trying to go to school from home, when you have no internet or inadequate internet, must be a nightmare. Working from home is the same thing except you're dealing with adults. The problem needed to be addressed, and it was clearly an issue in Pine Plains that had to be studied, so here I am."

Neil, an attorney who practices in New York City and lives in Pine Plains, said the committee started examining WiFi and internet access in Pine Plains only, but because it involved school Superintendent Martin Handler, it soon realized it was a regional problem, and started to branch out to other towns.

The PPCSD includes nine towns and stretches across two counties.

The crux of the matter

"I have an anecdote of how badly served we are," said Cloud. "I have a kid friend in college, who is going to a wonderful college. He got sent home from school because of COVID. [He had an assignment], and there he is at the library, sitting outside in his car freezing. I'm thinking, this is terrible, it's 20 degrees out. It's not like he could sit on the steps and get Bluetooth. It's in his honor that we kept going."

"That epitomizes the issue," said Neil, adding the library made WiFi available outside so residents could access hotspots in town, even if there was some discomfort involved.

Finley said he had learned that "Columbia County was ahead

of us; they received a little bit of money when the last round of grants came around. We wanted to be ready when the next round of grants becomes available with a clear statement of need. That's fortuitous right now."

Possible stimulus funds

That's because the committee believes Dutchess County could be in line for some stimulus funding that's to be directed toward improving broadband access.

"I sat on two meetings with [U.S. Rep.] Antonio Delgado [NY-D-19] and he's trying to understand how the Feds will roll out the American Rescue Plan and what they will require of those who get it this time," said Cloud. "It will be the first time towns and villages will get any money... It's all scary right now, but it looks like those two are definite: infrastructure and broadband."

What's not so definite is how much might be awarded, but Cloud said Dutchess could be in line for upwards of \$57 million.

One thing that has made broadband access so difficult historically is that the government determines if communities are adequately serviced with broadband on Census block statistics.

"If one household in a Census block has broadband defined as 25 megabits per second and if one household in one Census block has that available from one internet provider, the government considers the entire block as having internet coverage. You can see how that falls short," explained Finley. "That's why we did a survey; we wanted to explore and find out the whole truth."

In fact, according to the federal government, 88% of the households in the town of Pine Plains have broadband internet

available. Knowing that to be inaccurate, the committee conducted a survey in late September of 2020; it started collating results one month later, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic it's continuing its efforts. It still hopes to go door to door once the health crisis ends.

A collaborative effort

Cloud said like Pine Plains, neighboring communities are discovering they are in need of better internet service as well.

"In Amenia, they're just getting started with their survey writing, town Supervisor Victoria Perotti told me. She said that it was shameful; that was the word she used, 'shameful,' they don't have this," said Cloud. "Until recently, they didn't realize they don't have it because of COVID."

Cloud said she was happy to reach out to other towns, as "we didn't want them to have to do all the work we did."

Cloud also worked with the adjacent town of North East, which just released its own broadband survey on its municipal website on Friday, March 26 (for more on that story, turn to Page A2 and read this week's editorial on Page B4).

"All neighboring towns are in the same boat," agreed Finley, adding "we think it's a county, regional approach." He noted that to the south, in areas like Westchester County, communities are better off because they already are wired for fiber optic, which is faster, more reliable and more secure. "They're about two years ahead of us," he said.

"We really need to get everyone wired," Finley added. "It makes a difference in real estate values. Why would anyone run a business from a place that didn't

have broadband? They probably wouldn't. And I wanted to add one thing: We, as a community, really need to credit Darrah and the Town Board for their foresight to recognize the problem and for pulling the committee together."

Neil agreed, adding, "I don't know of anybody else in Dutchess County" that has been so progressive in forming a committee, writing a report and pursuing broadband so aggressively.

The benefits

While Finley said he didn't know other communities had the need to do so, Cloud said doing so has made the town a much more attractive place to live.

"You can work from home and go into the city one day a week," she said. "I think it would really benefit a lot of people here; it would benefit the businesses here, the supermarket would benefit, the hardware store, we are working on the trail system here — I'm really excited about that. People are going on the trails, stepping in for coffee in the cafe, it is a walkable town and I feel like we're just this jewel and people can't take advantage of it because we don't have high-speed internet."

"How many people did we lose who didn't move to Pine Plains this last year because we didn't have high-speed internet and they went to Gallatin instead?" asked Finley. "We haven't blown it yet... it's all there in the report. We want fiber optic."

Cloud said it will cost roughly \$30,000 a mile to install fiber optic wire, though Finley said if service providers like the cable company Altice face some competition, the price could go down dramatically.

SCHOOLS PREPARE *Continued from Page A1*

said that if the PPCSD continues its mitigation measures, it could operate with social distancing of less than 6 feet. Additionally, Handler said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its guidance and now a minimum of 3 feet of distance in elementary schools and 6 feet of distance in secondary schools is acceptable, unless staff are teaching in small groups.

School physician Karl Heymann reviewed the guidance from the CDC, the Dutchess County DOH and the World Health Organization and reviewed the district's plan before giving it his approval. Handler confirmed the district will be social distancing a minimum of 3 feet, and more if possible.

Regarding mitigation mea-

sures, Handler reported all students will wear masks at all times; they will be given 5-minute mask breaks, but won't be allowed to congregate during those breaks. Students must also walk on the right-hand side of the hallway between classes.

When students return from spring break on Monday, April 5, the district will start doing surveillance testing. Handler explained that the surveillance tests aren't for the students and staff who are showing symptoms, but will instead be used to identify anyone who is asymptomatic who may have the virus. The district will be testing 10% of the students whose parents have given consent, adding parents have the ability to change that consent and will be notified if their child has

been selected for testing.

The PPCSD's ventilation has also been improved with fully functioning unit ventilators in every single classroom. Classroom doors will be left open to bring in additional air and box fans have been purchased for all of the classrooms.

Handler emphasized the district will rely on parents for information to keep everyone safe.

"First of all, it's going to be more important than ever for every single parent to be the health screener for their child every day," he said. "We depend on that information and that really forces the parents to consider whether or not their child should go to school."

Wednesdays will continue to be taught as remote days for

cleaning purposes. They will also allow teachers to do additional planning for their live stream classes and to reach out to students who are fully remote who may be struggling.

One by one, the building principals shared the highlights of what the four-day in-person model will look like at their respective schools.

Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School

Though there will be few changes to the operating procedures at Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School, Principal Tara Grieb said there will be one locker between students and one person allowed in the bathroom at a time in group bathrooms. Masks and hand washing will continue to be enforced and locker rooms won't be used at all. Additional seats have been added in the cafeterias and large Plexiglas barriers have been installed on some of the tables to allow more seating.

Seymour Smith Intermediate Learning Center

For the band students at her school and at Stissing Mountain, Seymour Smith Intermediate Learning Center Principal Julie Roberts said they've purchased special masks with flaps that will allow most of the brass and wind instruments to slip the mouthpiece in while enclosing everything else behind the masks. Along with keeping 6 feet of distance between students in the cafeteria using desks, she said

they've recently received a new cleaning product whose research shows less a chance of infection by surface contact. The product has already been applied to the desks in the cafeteria and will soon be applied to all high-touch surfaces in the school building and playground surfaces.

Cold Spring Early Learning Center

While they're maintaining 4 feet or greater distances in each classroom, Cold Spring Early Learning Center Principal Gian Starr said there are a few areas throughout the building where it's more difficult to do so — mainly the computer lab and library — though plastic dividers have been installed. Students will be permitted to use outdoor equipment, washing their hands before and after recess. An additional eating area has been set up in the music room to allow more distance in the cafeteria, and additional ventilation has been brought into the building.

"When the district's Reentry Task Force set out on this, we wanted to make sure that the structure that we built was able to pivot from remote to hybrid to in-person without really impacting student schedules or programs or teacher programs," Director of Curriculum and Instruction Brian Timm said before opening the presentation for questions. "so that's something we're pretty proud of."

The presentations can now be viewed in full at the online, at www.ppcsd.org.

MIGDALE CASTLE *Continued from Page A1***ZBA meeting consolidated**

The single ZBA Zoom meeting then continued, focusing on a request for the ZBA's blessing from the Town Board to be lead agency on the Second Mountain State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process.

Close to 100 people signed in, and both lawyers for the groups opposing the project, Gottlieb and John Lyons, attended virtually.

The request was from Will Guidara, the developer of the property. It was merely ceremonial, as the Town Board does not officially need the ZBA's permission to become the lead agency in the mandated review process. Many residents oppose Guidara's application for a Spa Overlay District, which was to be discussed at a Planning Board meeting on Tuesday, March 30.

Gottlieb represents the three property owners who live closest to the Migdale Castle, while Lyons represents more than 258 other residents, who call their group the Friends of the Town of Washington.

Gottlieb stated that he had never seen a project so inconsistent with a community's Comprehensive Plan as that of Second Mountain. He asked why the application is even being entertained by the town, and repeated his claim that a complete site plan has not been submitted as required.

On Monday, March 29, Washington Town Clerk Mary Alex confirmed the town does not have a complete site plan on file.

Gottlieb also charges if the zoning variance is approved, it will open up the town up to uncontrollable future development.

Both attorneys agree that the Town Board should not be named lead agency for the project, as it is a legislative body. They also noted that just because the application process had begun doesn't mean it can't be stopped. He and Lyons both asked that the town to slow down for now. Lyons added those who oppose the project are doing so with their own money.

Others challenged the Town Board, including resident Doug Tardle, who asked that the project be put off for a year and a half, until after the pandemic.

"So there can be an open dialogue with transparency," he said.

Many residents charged that the project began in secret, with only the Town Board knowing about it until it was finally brought up at a meeting in February, after Guidara made a presentation before the board.

Eliza Dyson repeated concerns she voiced at other meetings, stating she's lived in the area for more than 60 years.

"It's so wholly against what our comprehensive plan says," she said, adding "the developer is not a resident, not a part of our town." The ZBA voted against nam-

ing the Town Board lead agency, though the Town Board could name itself such at its next meeting on its own. The ZBA meeting then ended.

Cease review of petition?

On Thursday, March 25, Mackey, Butts & Wise LLP, which represents the applicant, sent a letter to Washington town Supervisor Gary Ciferri, that Guidara is reportedly aware of the many concerns of residents, but is asking the town to "immediately cease any further review of the merits of the petition and the project."

The law firm asserted that it always assumed that the town would contemplate an iterative process to examine the virtues of the plan, and acknowledged that the town has no legal obligation to consider or adopt the petition for the overlay, but that legally it may do so.

They attorneys added that the review process is compliant with SEQRA. They outlined some of the pros involved with the project going forward, mentioned several of the objections previously voiced and answered those objections. They then noted that their client is awaiting the answer as to whether the Town Board will be the lead agency.

Although the application is pending, Gottlieb believes there may be a time restriction between Guidara and the current owners of Migdale Castle.

SPORTS IN BRIEF**Lady Warriors: Soccer at play**

WEBUTUCK — In spite of the unpredictable spring weather and COVID-19 safety restrictions, the Webutuck High School varsity girls soccer team has been busy on the field this season.

The Lady Warriors kicked off their first game of the season on Tuesday, March 16, with an away game against Dover High School. Since then, the team has added one win, two losses and one tie to its overall season record following two games against the Dover Dragons and two games against Pine Plains Bombers.

To learn more about how the Lady Warriors have been performing in their recent matches and for all of the game highlights, look for the full story when this week's edition is published online, on The Millerton News' website, www.tricornernews.com.

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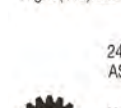
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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

CRAFTS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Bundles of Joy to Entertain Children in Springtime

They come together, one right after the other: Easter, Mud Season and Spring Vacation. These are all occasions that parents/grandparents either love or dread, when there are multiple children indoors running around together, often with sugar in their bloodstream.

Crafts were invented for just such times as these. In future weeks we will try to do a few projects to help keep families thriving and happy. As they used to say when I was young, the family that plays together stays together.

When I was working as a craft editor for children's magazines in New York (and simultaneously when I was the mother of a young child), I learned that crafts in magazines are done for visual effect and that most children can't or won't do them. What children really like to do is decorate things — and, of course, they like to run around and to hunt for things.

This craft is designed to have something for all ages, and it includes running around and hunting. I have no problem with



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

children eating sugar, especially as long as those children are not running around in my house. Easter is a notably candy-centric holiday; this craft can be done with or without sugar.

AN ALTERNATIVE TO EGG DYE

The essence of this project is the creation of gift bundles that can be hidden, and then hunted.

The bundles are easy to make and can be filled with candy — or they can be filled with rubber stamps or decorative stickers. If you put stamps and stickers in them, I promise you that almost all children of any age will quietly spend at least a half hour making pictures and little story scenes on paper.

The stickers can also be used to decorate boiled

eggs. Yes, you can do the old-fashioned dyeing of the eggs but it's fairly easy in this rural part of the world to find eggs that are naturally colorful (the farmstand on Wells Hill Road in Salisbury will often have blue/green eggs). And you probably know this already but children really hate the smell of vinegar, which you have to use to dye your eggs.

It's that time of year, when children are home for Easter or spring vacation — but it's too cold or wet to go outside and play. Simple crafts for all ages can help keep everyone happy.

You can avoid the smell by using stickers. You will also avoid all the mess and bother that comes with dyeing eggs, and I'll reiterate that children love nothing more than to decorate things.

In addition to stickers, you can get some craft glue such as Elmer's and have some feathers and glitter on hand (although of course then you have mess; make sure you cover your worktable with old newspapers to make cleanup easier).

The children can decorate pictures on paper, or they can decorate the boiled eggs.

TISSUE PAPER HOBO SACKS

To create the little bundles, get some tissue

paper from any large grocery store or pharmacy (you probably have some left over from the holiday season) and get some inexpensive curling ribbon (again, you probably have some in your basement already).

On a heavy piece of paper or cardboard, measure an 8 inch square and cut it out. This will be your template. Trace the square onto your tissue paper and cut several squares. It's fun to combine colors of paper in two layers. This is probably a job that's best done by older children, or by a parent in advance of the craft project.

If you're using rubber stamps, and the stamps are too big to fit in an 8 by 8 square, make a larger template.

Put your rubber stamp inside the tissue paper, cut about 12 inches of ribbon and then gently pull the edges of the paper up over the top of the rubber stamp to create a little sort of beggars pouch (as they're called in cooking, or hobo sacks as they used to be called during the Depression). Tie it shut with

Continued on next page

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Easter Service, 10 AM

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Friday, 2 April
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12noon In-person

Sunday, 4 April
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6:30am Ecumenical Sunrise Service
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Hal Borland

GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER
AT TRINITY
LIME ROCK



Good Friday
April 2, 12 Noon: Concert and Way of the Cross
On YouTube featuring three Bach Passion Arias and Tallis Motet with soloists and period instruments

Easter Day!
April 4, 10:30 AM Festive Easter Eucharist
On YouTube featuring Trinity Choir, Crescendo Soloists and Chorus, Chris Belluscio, Trumpet "Ego sum, qui sum" by G. Gabrieli "Halleluiah" from Messiah (in collaboration with Salisbury Congregational Church)

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Hidden Secrets (and Favorite Foods) of Old New England

Connecticut counts as part of New England but most of the foods that are considered Typical New England Cooking are, pretty much, rarely-if-ever served here. Pot roast, perhaps. But brown bread and baked beans? Not so much.

In her new book, "The Truth About Baked Beans," Meg Muckenhoupt explains how some of the stereotypes of so-called Old New England Food were created, and she talks about why so many of them are just ... so wrong.

Of particular note, in this era when food and the idea of cultural appropriation so often make the headlines, is her assertion (obvious as soon as she says it) that New England is not a land of just White Protestants and Native Americans.

There are of course regional foods based on regional ingredients (this is maple syrup season, for example). But Muckenhoupt opens wide the doors of New England cuisine and culture by talking about the many immigrants who brought their native foods with them. It's an interesting topic of conversation in this

year when Connecticut is considering adopting pizza as the state food.

In addition to giving a cultural and anthropological history, Muckenhoupt also offers recipes (many from well-known contemporary restaurants and other specialists in edible deliciousness) for exotic foods that are native to New England. It's full of surprises.

Learn more about the book and about true New England cuisine on Wednesday, April 14, at 7 p.m. She will be interviewed by me, Lakeville Journal Executive Editor Cynthia Hochswender; recipes will be shared and possibly assembled during the virtual presentation. It's also very likely there will be some beverages mixed and enjoyed. Watch our Instagram and Facebook pages for an ingredients list if you'd like to cook/drink along.

This free online event is presented by the House of Books in Kent and the Kent Memorial Library. To register (and to order the book), go to www.houseofbooksct.com and click on "events."

— Cynthia Hochswender



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Pupusas, an essential food for the people of El Salvador, are also an important part of the cuisine of New England. Find out how to make them and learn about some of the unexpected ethnic foods that are "New England classics" in a free Zoom talk on April 14 with Cynthia Hochswender and Meg Muckenhoupt.

... Springtime Crafts

Continued from previous page

the ribbon.

Older children can help with making the bundles; very young children probably can not. You'll know best what your children can do without getting frustrated (or ripping the tissue paper).

WORD SEARCH AND NUMBERS GAME

For children who are old enough to read, you can buy rubber stamps that spell out seasonal words such as Easter or spring (or mud).

Most stamp kits only have a single letter, so you'll need to get two or more stamp kits if you want to spell out a word such as Egg or Rabbit (stamps are available at most big box and craft stores; don't forget to buy ink pads in multiple happy spring colors).

You can count out the number of letters in, for example, Easter and send your child off in search of six little bundles. That's a counting game. And then when you open the bundles you can have

the child put them in the proper order to spell the word.

Older children can help hide the bundles (tissue paper is at its best in dry locations; if you hide the bundles outside and it's wet or snowy, you can put the tissue paper bundles in plastic bags, which is less cute but more practical).

The oldest children can create a treasure hunt to play with their friends; they can even use the rubber stamps to create small treasure maps, with cryptic instructions and little pirate images. Each map can lead to another map, which leads to another map, which eventually leads to a treasure (candy? a book?).

Have fun and as always on Easter: Try to keep a record of what you've hidden and where you've hidden it, so you can bring everything indoors before the plants begin to grow again in late spring.

STREAMING: ED FERMAN

Three Memorable Shows: 'Red Oaks,' 'Chernobyl' and 'My Cousin Vinny'

My candidate for one of TV's most underrated shows is "Red Oaks," a comedy/drama that largely takes place at a Jewish country club in New Jersey.

David Meyer (Craig Roberts) is an NYU student and aspiring film director who works there as assistant tennis pro. He falls for the daughter of the president, Skye Getty (Alexandra Socha), and one story line follows their compelling and unpredictable romance from New Jersey to Paris to Greenwich Village.

No less compelling are the subplots about their parents, aided by fine performances by Richard Kind and Jennifer Grey as David's Dad and Mom and Paul Reiser as Skye's Dad and the club president.

The supporting cast is superb, including David's pal Wheeler (Oliver Cooper) and his boss, Nash (Ennis Esmer). There are many things I love about "Red Oaks": its sweet nostalgic look at the 1980s, its touching humor (e.g. a brilliant body-swapping episode), its terrific soundtrack, and the fact that it doesn't go on too

long. It has exactly the right number of episodes and ends on a perfect note. Everyone in your family will enjoy this show. On Amazon Prime.

If you passed on HBO's award-winning miniseries "Chernobyl," I quite understand. Why immerse yourself in another disaster in our year of trouble. But you should catch up with this gripping show, which dramatizes the 1986 explosion and the cleanup that follows.

Many think that the worst nuclear disaster in history led to the breakup of the Soviet Union.

The series won critical acclaim for its exhaustive research and stunning production design. Don't try watching this on your phone, but you can appreciate it on an average size TV. (The average TV screen these days is 55 inches.)

You probably won't recognize any of the fine cast,

except for the star, Jared Harris, who had a major role in "Mad Men."

Yes, the show is grim, but not all is destruction and death. There is much emphasis on the quiet heroism of firefighters, miners who dig a crucial tunnel, and other front-line workers. Also exposed is the infuriating response of government leaders, who refuse to listen to the scientists and care only about spreading lies to lighten the disaster. All too familiar. On HBO Max.

Dying is easy; comedy is hard. But you need some laughs after "Chernobyl," and so I need a sure thing.

Nothing can be surer than this 1992 film about Vinny Gambini, a Brooklyn personal injury lawyer who drives down to Alabama with his girlfriend, Mona Lisa Vito, to defend his cousin and another youth (or "yute") who have been falsely accused of murder.

Many of you know I'm talking about "My Cousin Vinny," which is always worth a second look.

For you lucky newbies, Joe Pesci, who turns out to be a wonderful actor when released from the bonds of playing gangsters, plays Vinny. Marisa Tomei is Mona Lisa, and you have never met a more charming and sexy gearhead. She won an Oscar for best supporting actress. The two stars and their hilarious dialogue carry the film, but it is also a suspenseful courtroom drama with a surprise ending.

Rent it, from \$2.99 on Amazon Prime, YouTube and others.

Ed Ferman is the former editor and publisher of The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction and has been an editor at the Cornwall Chronicle for many years. He has lived in Cornwall since 1969.

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Serving North Canaan, CT, Sheffield and South County, MA

Topping Out Ceremony at Cary Institute

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — If when driving along Route 44 in Millbrook one should spot a small pine tree and an American flag atop the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies building nearing Route 82, here's why. It has to do with an old Scandinavian tradition, melded with a newer American tradition, and is all by way of celebrating the ongoing renovation and rebuilding of the institute, which started in the fall of 2020.

One tradition says that Viking chieftains would place an evergreen tree atop a building that was nearing completion as a signal that the celebration could begin. Another tradition credits the American Indian for it, as they believed no building should be taller than a tree, so tall buildings were topped with an evergreen to satisfy the forest spirits. The newer, American tradition, includes a steel beam and a flag.

Fact: the Empire State Building had a Topping Out Celebration.

The Cary held its celebration on Thursday, March 18, via Zoom

due to the COVID-19 health crisis, celebrating with more than 100 participants. Cary President Joshua Ginsberg introduced Scott and Pamela Ulm, co-chairs for the Cary Campaign. Ginsberg said he was pleased to announce that \$1.3 million was raised of the \$2 million goal. He also shared that no public fundraising had occurred before the initial investment of \$11 million was accrued through grants, bequests and other means.

Through a video, those watching witnessed a white painted beam, replete with the signatures of scientists and staff written on it, along with a small pine and an American flag, was hoisted to the roof level.

Ginsberg noted that the scientists at the Cary and their support staff are working on 21st science and environmental issues that impact the world, and the upgraded building will support their work. While the construction is reverting to the Cary's original design, he anticipates that the new foyer will be elegant and easy to find.

Rather than putting solar panels on the roof, the institute will be using renewable energy through the Bacon Triangle solar arrays adjacent to the campus.

The original saw tooth roof will once again be restored, providing natural lighting.

It was noted that the original Cary building, designed by Malcolm Wells in 1978, was one of the first green buildings in the area. The architecture firm Beck & Beck, out of Westport, Conn., was hired to do the renovations and said the building had "good bones" but admitted that it wasn't living up to its fullest potential. It has managed to bring the outside in, said the architects working on the project.

Ginsberg said that he has already had queries from other groups and institutions who would like to rent space at the Cary for meetings and conferences in the future.

"People need more nature and more light," he said. "I'd like to see the space created at the same caliber as the scientists who work there."

Fortunately, there have been no major surprises thus far, no asbestos to deal with or other upsets, other than snow for two weeks straight to contend with. Although the work was planned to take place earlier on, even the pandemic worked to their ad-



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The beam, painted white and adorned with the signatures of scientists and staff at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, was hoisted from the ground to the roof level, replete with a small pine tree and an American flag at the Topping Out Ceremony on Thursday, March 18. The beam heralds the progress being made as the building is rebuilt and renovated from the 1970s model to a facility worthy of the 21st century science that will be taking place inside the building once it's completed.

vantage, as most of the staff has been working from home and the space has been unoccupied, so the renovation has been carried out without interruption.

It's been on budget and on time, which is fairly amazing and due to phenomenal management,

Ginsberg said. The construction company, Consigli Construction Co., out of Pleasant Valley, is doing the work, headed by its chief engineer, Ian McClennon.

Ginsberg said he is looking forward to welcoming the staff back in late summer or early fall,

with maybe a formal launch in March of 2022. The Cary is still seeking donations to reach its goal of \$2 million, as there remains more work to be done. Yet the end is in sight, and as Ginsberg said, "It's been a remarkable ride."

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET, ANNUAL MEETING, SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION AND VOTE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Northeast Central School District, Dutchess and Columbia Counties, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on the Budget in the High School Library at the Webutuck High School Building, Haight Road, Amenia, New York, on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 7:00 P.M., for the purpose of presenting the budget document for the 2021-2022 School Year.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required for to fund the budget for the 2021-2022 school year, exclusive of public monies, may be obtained by any resident of the District during business hours, between 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M., prevailing time, at the Webutuck Elementary School, Eugene Brooks Intermediate School, Webutuck High School and at the District Administrative Office between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, effective May 3, 2021, except Saturday, Sunday or holidays. Copies of the Budget will also be available at the Northeast-Millerton Library and the Amenia Free Library.

The election and budget vote shall be by machine or absentee ballot. The hours during which the poll shall be kept open shall be from 12:00 Noon until 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, or for as long thereafter as necessary to enable qualified voters who are in the polling place at 9:00 P.M. to cast their ballots.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Annual Meeting, Election of Members of the Board of Education and Vote on the Budget of the qualified voters of the Northeast Central School District, will be held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at the Webutuck High School gym, Haight Road, Amenia, New York, between the hours of 12:00 Noon and 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, when the polls will be open for the purpose of voting by voting machine:

A. To elect four (4) members to the Board of Education at large, two (2) for three-year terms, commencing July 1, 2021 and expiring on June 30, 2024 to fill the vacant seats of incumbent board members, Nikki Johnson, and Rick Keller Coffey, one (1) to fill the vacancy left by the resignation

of Jay Newman whose term shall expire on June 30, 2023, and one (1) to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Steve Abad whose term shall expire on June 30, 2022.

B. To adopt the annual budget of the Northeast Central School District for the fiscal year 2021-2022 and to authorize the requisite portion therefore to be raised by taxation on the taxable property on the District.

C. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting pursuant to the Education Law of the State of New York.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that petitions for the nomination of candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education must be filed with Clerk of the District no later than Monday, April 19, 2021 by 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, in the form and manner prescribed by Section 2018 of the Education Law. Vacancies on the Board of Education are not considered separate, specific offices; candidates run at-large for the vacant seats. Such petitions must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the School District, shall state the residence address of each signer and the name and residence address of the candidate. The petition shall also describe the length of the term of the office and contain the name of the last incumbent. Petition forms may be picked up on any school day at the Office of the District Clerk, at the Webutuck High School building, Haight Road, Amenia, New York between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the qualified voters of the School District shall be entitled to vote in said annual vote and election. A qualified voter is one who is (1) a citizen of the United States of America, (2) eighteen (18) years of age or older, and (3) resident within the School District for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the annual vote and election. The School District may require all persons offering to vote at the budget vote and election to provide one form of proof of residency pursuant to Education Law section 2018-c. Such form may include a driver's license, a non-driver identification card, a utility bill, or a voter registration card. Upon offer of proof of residency, the School District may also require all persons offering to vote to provide their signature, printed name and address.

NOTICE IS FURTHER

GIVEN that absentee ballots will be available for this Election and Vote. Applications for absentee ballots for the School District Election and Vote may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk at the Webutuck High School building, Haight Road, Amenia, New York on school days during school hours. The application must be returned to the District Clerk at least seven (7) days prior to the election if the ballot is to be mailed, or the day before the election if the ballot will be picked up personally by the voter. Absentee ballots must be received at the Office of the District Clerk by no later than 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, on the day of the Election and Vote, May 18, 2021.

The Education Law makes special provisions for absentee voting by "permanently disabled" voters of the District and any questions regarding these should be directed to the District Clerk. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available for inspection to qualified voters of the District at the said District Administrative Offices during regular office hours, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, including the day of the Election and Vote. Any qualified voter may file a written challenge the acceptance of the ballot of any person on such list, by making his/her challenge and reasons therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls.

The Education Law also makes special provisions for absentee voting for "military" voters of the District. Specifically, the law provides a unique procedure for "military ballots" in school district votes. Whereas absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots must be received by the voter by mail, a military voter may elect to receive his/her absentee ballot application and absentee ballot by mail, email or facsimile. The military voter must, however, return his/her original military ballot application and military ballot by mail or in person. The Clerk of the Board shall transmit the military voter's military ballot in accord with the military voter's preferred method of transmission, or if no preferred method is identified by mail, not later than 25 days before the vote. The Clerk of the Board must then receive the military voter's military ballot by mail or in person not later than 5:00 p.m. on the day of the vote.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a rule adopted

by the Board of Education in accordance with Education Law § § 2035, 2008, any referenda or propositions to amend the budget, or otherwise to be submitted for voting at said election, must be filed with and directed to the District Clerk at the District Office, on or before April 19, 2021; must be typed or printed in the English language. However, the Board of Education will not entertain or place before the voters any petition or any proposition if its purpose is beyond the power of the voters or is illegal, or any proposition requiring the expenditure of monies which fails to include specific appropriations for all such expenditures required by the proposition.

Therese M. Trotter
Clerk of the Board
Webutuck (Northeast)
Central School District
194 Haight Road, P.O. Box
405
Amenia, NY 12501
04-01-21

TOWN OF AMENIA PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that pursuant to Chapter 121 of the Code of the Town of Amenia and NYS Town Law Section 274-a, a public hearing will be convened by the Town of Amenia Planning Board at 7:00 p.m. on April 14, 2021 to consider the application of Silo Ridge Ventures Property A, LLC for a site plan amendment to the Planning Board's July 29, 2015 approval of Silo Ridge Resort Community Phase I Site Plans involving Condominiums 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 on property located at Former Silo Ridge Country Club, 4651 Route 22, Amenia, New York (Parcel Grid Identification Number: 7066-02-775969) (the "Application"). The subject property is located in the Rural Agricultural zoning district and the Resort Development and Scenic Protection overlay districts.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the public hearing on the application will be conducted remotely via Zoom in accordance with Executive Order 202.1 and subsequent Executive Orders of Governor Andrew Cuomo. To participate in this public hearing, please send an email to jwestfall@ameniany.gov and instructions will be provided.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a copy of the Application is on file in the Planning Board Office for public viewing and inspection

during normal business hours by appointment only; Monday-Thursday 1pm-4pm. The Application can also be viewed and downloaded from the Town's official website at www.ameniany.gov.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Planning Board will hear all persons interested in the Application at the public hearing noticed herein. All persons may appear at the hearing in person or by agent and may also submit written comments to the Planning Board at or prior to such hearing by emailing comments to Planning Board Secretary Judy Westfall at jwestfall@ameniany.gov.

Dated: March 23, 2021.
Robert Boyles, Jr., Chairman
Town of Amenia
Planning Board
04-01-21

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village Board of the Village of Millerton invites sealed proposals for the furnishing of all materials and labor necessary for the construction of the Village of Millerton Sidewalk Replacement Project in the Village of Millerton, New York. This Contract has been designated as Contract No. 20-113 as set forth in contract documents, including drawings and specifications, prepared by CPL Architecture, Engineering, Planning and Land Surveyor, DPC, 64 Green Street, Suite 1, Hudson, NY 12534.

All such sealed proposals must be received by the Village Clerk at the Village Hall, 5933 North Elm Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546 on or before April 9, 2021, 10:00am, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud, for prompt consideration by the Village Board.

Copies of the proposed contract documents, including plans and specifications, and the forms of proposals for the contract, are available for public inspection at the Village Clerk's office during business hours, Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. to noon and becoming available March 19, 2021. Pursuant to the provisions of GML 102, persons desiring to take a copy may obtain them, subject to a non-refundable deposit in the amount of \$50.00 for each set, payable by check or money order.

Work shall consist of:
Base Bid:
Demolition of existing sidewalk and curb and replacement with new concrete sidewalk and curbing along the south side of NYS Route

44 (Main Street), Village of Millerton

The Contractor shall enter into a contract within five (5) calendar days from the date of acceptance of this bid and the work shall be substantially complete within 60 calendar days of the date of the Notice to Proceed.

All proposals shall be made and received upon the following conditions, which are more fully set forth in the bid documents:

1. Only such proposals as are made and filed upon the forms available in the Bid Documents will be accepted.

2. Proposals are to be enclosed in a sealed envelope.

3. Each proposal must be accompanied by a certified check in the sum of five percent (5%) of the amount bid, payable to the order of the Village of Millerton, or a bond with sufficient sureties, to be approved by the Mayor, as Chief Financial Officer, in such amount, conditioned that if the proposal is accepted, the bidder will enter into a contract for the same and will provide acceptable security, in the form of cash, certified check or performance bonds, or letters of credit, as set forth in the contract documents, for the faithful performance of the contract, within 15 days from the acceptance of the proposal.

4. Pursuant to the provisions of GML 105, no bids may be withdrawn unless no contract is awarded for more than 45 days after the opening thereof.

5. Upon acceptance of the bid, if the successful bidder fails to enter into a contract pursuant to the requirements of said Village Board or fails to give the further security prescribed in this notice within the time noted herein, then the check deposited as aforesaid, and the moneys standing to the credit of the same shall be forfeited to the Village as liquidated damages and not as a penalty and the Mayor shall collect the same or enforce the payment of the bond for the benefit of the Village.

6. All bids shall contain the non-collision certificate in a form meeting the requirements of GML 103-d.

The Village Board reserves the right, in its discretion, to waive technical noncompliance or irregularities that are not material or substantial, and to reject all bids and to rebid the project.

By Order of the Village Board
Kelly Kilmer
Village Clerk
04-01-21

EDITORIAL

Pine Plains takes the initiative, and it could mean better broadband for Harlem Valley

Here's to taking the ball and rolling with it, because that's exactly what the town of Pine Plains has done, motivating a number of other Harlem Valley communities to follow suit.

About nine months ago, Pine Plains town Supervisor Darrah Cloud had the foresight to form the Pine Plains Broadband Committee, tasked with, in its own words as written in its just-completed report as of Friday, March 26, "to examine the broadband issue and to make recommendations."

Now this report, thanks to the technical knowledge and expertise of those manning the committee who volunteered their time and energy to research, contemplate, debate and document all that they had learned, is much more detailed and thorough than what we can layout for readers here. Suffice it to say, the Pine Plains Broadband Committee took decisive action, including conducting a much-needed internet survey (as the federal government bases its broadband statistics on Census blocks that are incredibly deceiving, indicating 88% of Pine Plains households have high-speed internet — for more read this week's front page).

It also wrote the Report of the Pine Plains Broadband Committee, which it plans to submit to Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro; it's already presented its findings to Dutchess County Legislature Chairman Gregg Pulver (R-19), one of Pine Plains' very own.

Bottom line, explains the report, "Fiber optic cable is a technology that strings bundles of tiny glass tubes and transmits data by beams of light. It has tremendous advantages over other technologies... notably almost unlimited potential speed of data transmission... it has no practical range limit... it is highly resistant to tampering for security. At present, it costs approximately \$30,000/mile to string fiber to homes."

The report further states that in Pine Plains, "there is a fiber optic trunk cable running along a few streets and... along Main Street, but it has not been deployed to any homes or businesses," noting while companies like Altice are converting coaxial cable to fiber optic in more populated places like Westchester County, "it may be years" before it reaches towns like Pine Plains.

Presenting the plan to Molinaro is key, as the county executive is expected to announce the distribution of a possible \$57 million in American Rescue Plan stimulus funds in the next few weeks specifically for broadband and infrastructure needs — geared toward northeastern Dutchess County. Unlike stimulus funds in the past, this time, said Cloud, word has it that the money would be made available to towns and villages.

None of this has been confirmed, but there is a strong possibility of its likelihood, according to the supervisor, who said she has been in talks with U.S. Rep. Antonio Delgado (NY-D-19), who is "trying to understand how the Feds will roll out the American Rescue Plan and what they will require of those who get it this time," according to Cloud.

Known for her ability to work with others, Cloud reached out to neighboring communities early on in the process, contacting the nearby towns of North East, Amenia and Stanford about a regional collaboration to advocate for county support for improved broadband infrastructure. All three towns responded positively, and have had representatives attend the Pine Plains' meetings during the past nine months. Cloud also contacted leaders in Columbia County, which is further ahead in the race for high-speed internet than Dutchess County, according to her; she also got in touch with Dutchess County and state lawmakers.

Meanwhile, the town of North East has created its own broadband committee; its chair, Rich Stalzer, became very involved with the Pine Plains group and helped draft its internet survey. That helped when North East drew up its own broadband survey, which went live on the town's website on Friday, March 26 (for more, turn to Page A2).

North East is admittedly a number of months behind its neighbor to the west, but its town supervisor, Chris Kennan, an ex-officio member of the committee, is determined to work just as hard and be just as productive.

Encouraged by all that Cloud and her committee have accomplished, Kennan said while the COVID-19 pandemic highlights the dire need rural communities have for reliable broadband service with concerns like remote education and remote work, it's a quality of life issue at any time.

"We started to see that broadband accessibility is not a luxury, but really is a necessity in today's world," said Kennan.

It is, which is why we're keeping our fingers crossed that those stimulus dollars will come through for the Harlem Valley, and that they will be allocated to where they're so desperately needed.

Our town leaders have done the work, with willing, competent, hard-working, dedicated and generous volunteers at their side. Hopefully their efforts will be rewarded and those who live and work in the rural communities we love to call home will be able to communicate as easily as the rest of the world can in 2021 — reliably, securely, dependably, consistently and lightning fast.



Millerton may be great, but it does have its issues

Recently, the New York Times published an article in its Real Estate Section that highlighted the beauty and welcoming nature of Millerton for potential new residents. But when you really read the article, you notice the callous mentions of our town's challenges and "tips" for new residents to work around them. In describing the idyllic scenery and hip new additions to our downtown, the author managed to completely disregard the residents that predated the COVID boon we've seen in the last few months. By glossing over — and even offering ways to circumvent the issues that we face as a town — the article only serves to compound the issues that have found us in the situation we are in.

Our town faces many challenges: a fledgling school district, a dearth of quality shopping options and a complete lack of affordable housing options. Yet, it didn't seem like the stories of families making do with groceries from the local gas station or chain pharmacy because they can't afford other

local options or don't have transportation to travel to other, more economical stores made it to print, perhaps because it didn't fit the "youthful energy" vibe of the article. Either way, our challenges don't define us as a community, and if we work together — long-time residents and newcomers — we can build a stronger Millerton for all.

For those of us who live here and see them first hand, our problems don't disappear when we simply choose not to acknowledge them. It's not enough to ignore our school's lack of funding by sending our children to private schools or work around the fact we have no grocery store by picking up dinner from the prepared foods section of one of the high-priced speciality stores in the area.

We have to find solutions to them. Solutions that will benefit both those who have called Millerton home for generations, as well as those who have just discovered how incredible our little corner of Dutchess County is. Solutions like zoning and

building law changes, incentives for new businesses that the local community desperately needs and infrastructure development to make our town increasingly functional for all.

Bridging the divide that this piece quietly alludes to will take time and work. It won't be easy — but it will be much harder if our town is strictly populated by those who the article suggests our town is most suitable for: those with the means to create a town that "caters to their tastes" while ignoring very real issues faced by those who were here long before they arrived.

As stated above, Millerton is a welcoming place, filled with people who are eager to bring you into the fold. But, it is a two-way street. We need to know that when someone new comes in, they are willing and able to find ways to join the community in ways that benefit us all. That will ensure we create a future Millerton we can all be proud of.

Claire Owens
Candidate for Dutchess County Legislature (D-19) Millerton

Message on flag too offensive to fly?

There currently appears to be a "flag issue" in Millerton. For a year, a homeowner flew a large "Trump2020" flag on the front façade of their house, a flag that remained for months after the election — and well within their rights. Then the homeowner inexplicably replaced it with an upside down American flag (a symbol of distress) and more recently, a blunt and vulgar "F*** BIDEN" flag has been put in its place.

The flag is large and prominent on the main road into the village on Route 22, just before the Main Street intersection.

Even as a progressive Democrat, I and others I've spoken with had no issue with the "Trump2020" flag flying indefinitely, but admittedly the upside down American flag felt like an escalation — and now the homeowner appears to be pushing the boundaries of what is acceptable for public view. I believe in the First Amendment and would feel the same way if the situation were reversed, and the flag were offensive toward former President Trump. It is the public verbiage that I find appalling.

Millerton is a small and fairly apolitical community, but during presidential elections, there is notable political signage, and more so for local elections. This homeowner made a political statement with the "Trump2020" flag. This new flag does not make the same kind of statement.

The Village of Millerton Board of Trustees held a special meeting that addressed this issue on March 22 (also available on their Facebook page). The village is proposing an amendment to its existing sign and banner/flag ordinance to prohibit profane or obscene language and is con-



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

A flag with a profane message addressing President Biden can be seen hanging from this Millerton home.

sulting with village attorneys on what can be done.

The village has also scheduled a public (Zoom) meeting for April 19th regarding this issue. Apparently this is an issue the village has not run into before and is scrambling to react.

Millerton is a tolerant community and doesn't usually wear its politics in public and it's impossible to know, simply by strolling through the village, who is a Democrat and who is a Republican.

An example of one rare bold protest last year was a young woman at the route 44/22 intersection sitting alone with a large Black Lives Matter sign. She was there for several days. People drove by and honked, but you were never certain if they were honking in support of her statement or not.

Free speech is a constitutionally protected right, but this flag is simply a vulgarity on a main road where it can be viewed by heavy auto and pedestrian traffic, including children.

I would invite the homeowner to attend the April 19th virtual Village Board of Trustees public meeting and/or respond with a letter to the editor as to

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Messages of hate not welcome

As I consider the senseless acts of violence against Asian Americans and other innocent humans the past couple of weeks, I look to the things in my life that bring me joy. Some of these things are right here in Millerton: people enjoying the new stretch of Rail Trail, colorful signs advertising businesses, kids lining up at the bus stop and dogs stopping to sniff at whatever delights this early spring thaw has revealed.

And then, I see the obscene and profane signs, flags and bumper stickers that a few vil-

lage residents display on their homes and vehicles.

To those of you who insist on sharing your hate-filled messages against the president, women (yes, I mean those "funny" bumper stickers that mention women's genitals), specific political parties or ideologies you disagree with: Enough! Get that garbage off your house, your lawn, your car. Scream those words into your pillow at night. Share them with your buddies in private. Leave the rest of this village out of it.

You are not funny, you are not cute and the rest of us think you are immature and foolish.

While you are welcome to your own opinions and to share them in an appropriate manner, you are not welcome to shove your obscenities into my face, or more importantly, into the little faces of the kids waiting at the bus stop.

Please, grow up!
Amy Schuler
Millerton

Willow Roots co-founders grateful for paper's support

It is with a complete sense of relief and peace of mind that I am writing to the staff of The Millerton News this day. It is Sunday, and it is exactly one week since we saw reporter Kaitlin Lyle at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Willow Roots. What a difference a week makes. We are beyond grateful for all of your support.

There is no doubt in my mind that your paper single handedly motivated and inspired people to reach out and offer their support. You are all a branch on our willow tree, and you have allowed more leaves to find us. We have made new friends and there are new possibilities for our future at hand.

There is no way to truly thank you, but to let you all know that you are forever a part of our family. You were with us at the very beginning and you have grown with us. Your staff's support and constant concerns are what truly makes this a symbiotic community. We are grateful and honored to call you our friends.

Lisa and Nelson Zayas
Co-founders of
Willow Roots food pantry
Pine Plains

THE MILLERTON NEWS

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An Independent New York Newspaper

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Thursday, April 1, 2021

Mission Statement

The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC, Publishers of
The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News
Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, fostering democracy and an atmosphere of open communication.

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In Memoriam
A. Whitney Ellsworth
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Managing Partner

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HELP WANTED

CAMP PROGRAM DIRECTOR: US or foreign Bachelor's or equiv. and 2 yrs. exp. reqd. Send resume to Camp Sloane Young Men's Christian Association, Inc., 124 Indian Mountain Rd., Lakeville, CT 06039.

CARPENTER WANTED: Please call our office at 860-824-2426 or Roger at 860-309-6656.

CARPENTER: Experienced carpenter wanted for renovation and new construction. Company specializing in all phases of construction and renovations. Experience required and pay to commensurate. Must have good references and reliable transportation. Call Scott at 860-309-5290.

ENTRY LEVEL CARPENTERS AND EXPERIENCED CARPENTERS: Wanted for premium pay. Benefits, 401k, vacation, paid holidays. High end residential construction. Become part of team. Eco-Builders. 845-233-0928.

EXTRAS: is looking for a Director/Head Teacher and Teachers for the Summer/After School program. If interested or for more information please contact extrasprogram@gmail.com.

IRVING FARM LOOKING FOR A TALENTED PREP COOK: Join our team at our Millerton, NY cafe. Roles and Responsibilities, Day-to-day: Responsible for the preparation of all menu ingredients used in the kitchen, including making soups, sauces and salads. Preparing and portioning back up. Keeping the kitchen well-stocked and organized. Following all food safety standards. Assist Kitchen Lead with food ordering. Assist with receiving, checking and putting away food orders. Step in to assist the Line if needed, and work at least one Line shift per week. Responsible for working five scheduled shifts a week, as needed and scheduled by the store Manager. Requirements: At least 2 years of professional Kitchen Experience. Must be able to read and follow recipes. Must be able to use a meat slicing machine. Must be able to stand for long periods of time. Must have basic knife skills. Full Time. Compensation: \$16 per hour. Expected start date: March 22, 2021. Send resumes to kathy@irvingfarm.com.

LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATE: Seeking a motivated individual to support our Landscape division. Duties include landscape maintenance, construction, and safe operation of small and large equipment. Drivers license and clean driving record required. Pay based on experience and performance during trial period. Opportunity for advancement. Please email resume to office@mattslandscapingct.com or call 860-824-1188 for more information.

LAWN MAINTENANCE & LANDSCAPING: Well established business seeks full-time & part-time employees. Driver's license, Ability to drive truck & trailer, Experience with Zero-Turn mowing equipment. References required. Quality work ethic a must. Competitive wages based on experience. 860-824-0053.

LAWN MAINTENANCE ASSOCIATE: Seeking hard working individuals to join our Lawn Maintenance division. Duties include lawn mowing, trimming, and spring and fall cleanups. Experience with zero-turn mowers preferred, gardening experience a plus. Drivers license and clean driving record required. Pay based on experience and performance during trial period. Opportunity for advancement. Please email resume to office@mattslandscapingct.com or call 860-824-1188 for more information.

LAWN MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR: Seeking experienced individual to manage our Lawn Maintenance division. Duties include personnel management, scheduling lawn cleanups and weekly mowing, and lawn equipment maintenance. Drivers license and clean driving record required. Competitive pay based on experience. Please email resume to office@mattslandscapingct.com or call 860-824-1188 for more information.

LOVE TO BE OUTDOORS? PLAY IN THE DIRT?: Looking for hard working, motivated, dependable team players for this upcoming season. Work with a great group who actually like each other and have fun at work. Reliable transportation, some basic gardening skills helpful, but willing to train. Seasonal, hourly position. Part-time and full-time available. Join the Sweethaven Team. Email or call Noreen 860-309-7132 or sweethavenfarmct@gmail.com.

HELP WANTED

GARDENER WANTED: Looking for hard working, motivated, dependable team players for this upcoming season, including a crew leader. Must be able to lift 50 lbs. Have own transportation. References required. Knowledge of Plant material is a plus. Call or text 860-248-0195.

NORTH EAST COMMUNITY CENTER: Seeking an organized Senior Administrative Assistant to provide high-level support to the Admin unit. Must have experience with data systems and software, 4 years office experience, and be bilingual/Spanish speaking. Submit resume and cover letter to info@necmillerton.org. Full position description available at www.necmillerton.org.

NORTH EAST COMMUNITY CENTER IS HIRING 3 POSITIONS: One FT Out of School Time Program Manager to manage our after-school/summer programs serving children/youth from the Webutuck District. One PT Classroom Lead and one PT Classroom Assistant for our afterschool programs at Webutuck Schools (possible opportunity for full-time for 5 weeks in the summer). Position descriptions available at www.necmillerton.org/employment. The NECC is an equal opportunity employer and program provider.

PAINTERS WANTED: Full time, experienced painters wanted with a minimum of 5 years experience. Must have transportation, must be reliable and have a neat and clean appearance. We offer a 401K Plan and pay with payroll company. Starting pay \$17 per hour. Please respond to illpaintit@yahoo.com with name, experience, desired salary and contact information. 4 positions available.

THE FALLS VILLAGE DAY CARE CENTER: offers year-round affordable care for infants, toddlers and school age children in a safe clean environment, with fun and stimulating activities. We are seeking a qualified lead teacher for our infant/toddler program. Qualified individuals should be at least 20 years of age, high school diploma or GED, 12 credits in early childhood education from an accredited institution, and be able to pass a background check. Interested individuals should be enthusiastic, patient, and eager to work with children. Pay is based on experience. For more information or to fill out an application call Ashley at 860-824-0882.

THE FALLS VILLAGE DAY CARE CENTER: is looking for assistant teachers to join our spring and summer program starting in mid April. Qualified individuals should be at least 18 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED, and be able to pass a background check. Interested individuals should be enthusiastic, patient, and eager to work with children. Pay is based on experience. For more information or to fill out an application call Ashley at 860-824-0882.

TOWN OF SHARON, CT: Seeking a part-time Social Service Agent/Municipal Veterans' Service Representative, 21 hours per week. Applications and job description can be obtained at the Selectmen's Office, 63 Main Street, P. O. Box 385, Sharon, CT 06069 weekdays from 9AM to 12 Noon and 1PM to 4PM, on the Town website, sharonct.org or phone 860-364-5789. Applications along with resume must be received by Thursday, April 15, 2021 at the above address. The Town of Sharon is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Salisbury School

Mailroom Manager

Salisbury School is seeking a full-time (year-round) Mailroom Manager, M-F, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Responsibilities include providing incoming and outgoing mail and shipping services to the School and oversight of petty cash services. Individual must possess strong computer, bookkeeping, clerical and excellent customer service skills; mailroom, shipping and receiving experience preferred. Must be able to lift/transport 50-75 lbs.

Applicants should send letter of application and resume to:
Director of Human Resources, Salisbury School,
251 Canaan Road, Salisbury, CT 06068
or to
mdonecker@salisbury-school.org
EOE

Salisbury School

Advancement Services Coordinator

The Advancement Services Coordinator provides support for the Development Office by maintaining databases, conducting prospect research, and assisting with running lists and preparing reports. This position has significant responsibilities in the areas of data and gift entry to ensure that all cash gifts, stock donations, and pledges are accurately recorded in the database, acknowledged, and reconciled with the Business Office.

High School degree required, Associate's or Bachelor's degree preferred plus two to three years of relevant accounting and/or database experience required along with a strong knowledge of MS Office and Raiser's Edge.

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume to:
M. Donecker, Director of Human Resources at
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