



MILLBROOK
Barking For
Books A7



AMENIA
Holiday of Lights
Celebration A4

SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE
Tri-Corner Real Estate

Shop Millbrook
This Holiday Season C7

©2013 The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC Periodical Rate Postage Paid at Millerton, New York 12546



PHOTOS BY SHERRY FISHER

Webutuck warms up with music

Webutuck High School held its holiday concert, Wednesday, Dec. 11. Above, clarinetists, from left, LeAnn Biscoglio, Michelle Haviland and Courtney Whitehead. Right, Brandon Stevens from the school jazz chorus. For more photos turn to Page A9.



Skip a meal, donate a dollar (or more)

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

HARLEM VALLEY — No one likes to go hungry, though some have little choice — especially if they're too young to fend for themselves. That's why the program Skip Meal was organized by Youth Mission Outreach Inc., to "bring awareness, hope and help to the needy," in the city of Poughkeepsie and surrounding areas — some right in the Harlem Valley.

According to the website, www.youthmissionoutreach.org, Youth Mission Outreach "is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt non-denominational ministry [that] provides valuable support and services for youth and their families and individuals with developmental disabilities. Its aim is to address the needs of the entire person: physically, socially, emotionally and spiritually."

Skip Meal is in its first year, though Youth Mission Outreach (YMO) was organized in 1992. Skip Meal is the brain child of YMO Executive Direc-

tor Marynell Tyner. She decided such a program was needed after witnessing the rising level of poverty in Dutchess County. One survey puts the number of Dutchess County children living in poverty at 12 percent. According to the organization, "food insecurity in Poughkeepsie is 12.3 percent higher than the national average. This means more than one in four households does not have regular access or funds to purchase nutritious food or, in most cases, food at all."

"We were trying to figure out how to solve this problem and you can't do it on its own, it has to be a collaborative effort and the community has to be behind it," said Lu-Tricia Mannese, vice president of Youth Mission Outreach. "The idea was born from that. It's such an important idea, and in order to change the future you have to change the youth of today, and the first thing you have to do is nourish them. You can't reach a child if he or she is hun-

See SKIP MEAL, A13

Proposed Millerton supermarket

Article 78 lawsuit dismissed

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

NORTH EAST — There is good news for those who have been anxiously awaiting the progression of the as-of-yet unnamed (but believed to be a Hannaford) supermarket development — the Article 78 lawsuit filed against the town's Planning Board and Southern Realty and Development, LLC (the project's developer) has been dismissed. That ruling was made by the Christine A. Sproat, justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Dutchess County, on Wednesday, Dec. 11.

"The court finds that the Planning Board reasonably exercised its discretion in issuing a negative declaration that the proposed project would have no significant effect on the environment, thus obviating the need for an

Environmental Impact Statement," she stated in her judgement.

The Ten Towns to Preserve Main Street had filed the Article 78 lawsuit (used to appeal a decision of a state or local agency in the New York courts) on June 25. The Ten Towns was joined in the lawsuit by the Housatonic Environmental Action League, Millerton resident Anne Veteran and Wassaic shopkeeper/Amenia resident Sharon Kroeger.

The lawsuit objected to the board's decision to grant a negative declaration, and thus not pursue an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A negative

declaration, or neg. dec., is a finding in the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process that implies the project will not have any adverse environmental impacts. The Planning Board voted 4 to 3 that the proposed 36,000-square foot supermarket designed for a 10-plus acre site off Route 44 in the town of North East, on the outskirts of the village of Millerton, merited a neg. dec.

Planning Board Chairman Dale Culver said after learning of the lawsuit's dismissal he was confident his board

See LAWSUIT DISMISSED, A13

Heroin, a growing concern in the Harlem Valley

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

WEBUTUCK — Drugs. They are a constant concern among parents and school personnel caring for impressionable children and teenagers in today's fast-paced world. Because the North East (Webutuck) Central School District and the communities it serves (namely Millerton and Amenia) are so easily reached by the Metro-North Railroad, the Taconic State Parkway, routes 22, 44 and 343 and the Hudson River, and that the region is equidistant between New York City and Albany,

drugs are now more available than ever before.

"In Dutchess County geography plays a very large role in that distribution," said Elaine Trumpetto, executive director of the Council of Addiction Prevention and Education of Dutchess County, Inc. (CAPE). "Law enforcement has also pointed out there's an eerie similarity to some of what occurred in Dutchess County with prohibition several decades ago."

These days, rather than alcohol, heroin seems to be the drug of choice. Reports of heroin use abound all the way from Poughkeepsie to the north-

eastern-most borders of the county.

"It's becoming more prevalent," said New York State Police Troop K Public Information Officer Melissa McMorris. "In the Poughkeepsie area in November there were eight nonfatal overdoses in a 24-hour period."

Right in Amenia, on Dec. 2 at around 5 p.m., two people were treated and then sent to the hospital for an "EMS assist with possible drug involvement." That incident was purportedly due to a heroin overdose.

"I just think the use of heroin in gen-

See HEROIN A CONCERN, A13

Lyme disease victims push awareness, reform

By GABRIEL NAPOLEON
gabrieln@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Last month The Millerton News reported a severe case of Lyme disease in Amenia resident Marc Miles and his endeavors to raise awareness surrounding the subject.

In summary, Miles began feeling symptoms in February; saw his regular doctor; took the standard enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay test for Lyme, which came out negative; followed a prescription regardless; did not recover; and in July sought out a "Lyme-literate" doctor who diagnosed him with two strains of the illness and a related tick-borne disease, babesiosis.

Miles' health insurance does not cover visits to or prescriptions from his Lyme specialist, Richard Horow-

"There are senators up in Albany who refuse to acknowledge this ... [who] accuse patients of making this up."

State Sen. Terry Gipson (D-41)

itz, M.D., of Hyde Park. Miles currently pays up to \$1,000 out-of-pocket a month for treatment, with about \$14,000 spent so far, he said.

Miles said his treatment consists of self-administered Bicillin injections, three times a week, and ingesting 40 to 50 pills a day, including antibiotics and herbal, vitamin and detoxing supplements.

"The first thing that is a blessing is that I found the right doctor, the second blessing is that I can afford this right now," Miles said, though he added with concern, "most people can't afford that. The average person can't even af-

ford to be treated."

There lies the focus of his task: to help revise state and federal Lyme disease-related medical regulations.

According to the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, "The Lower Hudson Valley has long been considered the epicenter for Lyme disease in New York state."

Residents reach out

After November's article, Miles heard from a variety of area residents in similar and less fortunate situations.

See LYME DISEASE, A13



Friday



39°/34°

Saturday



39°/36°

Sunday



45°/38°

Obituaries.....A2
Millerton.....A3
Amenia.....A4-5
Pine Plains.....A6
Millbrook.....A7

Sports.....A10
Opinion.....A11
Health.....A14
Classifieds.....A15-16
Compass.....Inside

OPINION/VIEWPOINT

Dealing With Drugs;
Letters/Columns A11-12



Interest Plus Checking

the account that offers big rewards!



SALISBURY BANK | enriching.

branches serving: Lakeville | Salisbury | Sharon | Canaan | Sheffield | South Egremont | Dover Plains | Millerton

Ask us how
you can receive
ATM Fee Refunds
Nationwide!

For more information
call 860.435.9801 or
visit your local branch

LAWSUIT DISMISSED *Continued from Page A1*

had made the right decision.

“We took our time and hoped that we did our very best to represent the people of our community, doing it the right way so whatever the outcome, the final decision would hold up,” he said. “We’re seven people representing the community, and from my stewardship as chairman I tried very hard to make sure [the decision] was conclusive, inclusive and when we reached the end that we’ve done all we can do to reach a final conclusion that we could stand on.”

SRD principal John Joseph said he had faith in his application, and the Planning Board’s review process, all along.

“I wasn’t worried about it at all,” he said following the ruling, adding he was “100 percent” confident the lawsuit would be dismissed. “It’s nice to get the decision finally. What’s quite amazing is that [the petitioners] had the nerve to file a lawsuit to accuse the Planning Board of not following the law.”

Culver said even though the process took time, he would rather have spent that time than rush through a decision that wouldn’t have held up in court.

“I felt like we reached an ending at the appropriate time for that ending,” he said. “While some might look back and think we could have rushed on this, or pushed forward on that, I still think it was most important that the final decision is one everybody can support and that can withstand a challenge. There seems to

have been an agreement on that.”

The Planning Board and SRD responded to the lawsuit on the grounds that Veteran and Kroeger did not establish they had the requisite standing to sue; that “the organizational petitioners Ten Towns to Preserve Main Street and the Housatonic Environmental Action League did not demonstrate they had the requisite legal capacity and organizational standing” to sue; and that the “action was barring to sue; that the applicable 30-day statute of limitations set forth ... in town law” ... and according to other regulations.

Though the petitioners disagreed, the Judge Sproat was specific in her final ruling.

“The mere fact that petitioners’ experts disagree with the Planning Board’s experts is not a basis to invalidate the board’s determination,” she stated. “Given the in-depth analysis of environmental impact and the proposed remedial measures, the Planning Board’s sharply divided determination cannot be considered arbitrary and capricious or an abuse of discretion. For all of the foregoing reasons, the petitioners’ application must be denied and the petition dismissed. All other requested relief is denied.”

Calls to Veteran were not returned before press time, and Kroeger denied a request for an interview for this article.

Joseph, meanwhile, said the review process is now complete, and that he plans to begin construction in the spring, “as soon as weather permits.”

HEROIN A CONCERN *Continued from Page A1*

eral is increasing, and I think it’s killing people,” McMorris said. “Not only is it highly addictive, it’s highly toxic.”

That’s exactly what those within the school district are hoping to convey to students. Webutuck High School Principal Ken Sauer said it’s a challenge sometimes, especially as society’s drug problem worsens.

“We are aware of an increased presence [of drugs] in the Harlem Valley. We’ve seen news reports from Pawling and Dover that have directly impacted those communities, and we’re not turning a blind eye to those stories,” he said. “As of yet, knock on wood, I have no knowledge of heroin being an issue in this school community, but our health teachers do speak frequently of the dangers of narcotic drug use, and we have guest speakers come in from the Daytop Village drug abuse and addiction center in Millbrook.”

That doesn’t mean, however, Webutuck is completely drug free.

“Right now I think my biggest concern is the increase in prescription drug use and abuse,” Sauer said, touching on an issue that’s growing worse day by day.

According to Trumpetto, opiates, which include prescription painkillers as well as heroin, are a concern on the national, state and local levels. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the national Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) have both la-

beled opiate abuse an epidemic.

“Everyone’s medicine cabinet has some measure of those kinds of drugs in there, and teens are very intelligent and resourceful creatures and also risk takers, and having those kinds of meds with that kind of availability can be a very big risk,” Trumpetto said.

To that end, she said, measures have been taken to curtail prescription drug use abuse. In Dutchess County, for instance, there are permanent drop-off sites for prescription drugs, to encourage people to routinely clean out their medicine cabinets. Simply flushing those drugs down the toilet is not recommended as there are growing concerns doing so can contaminate the water supply.

Still, the priority remains keeping the drugs out of youngsters’ hands in the first place. Preventing teens from accessing prescription painkillers is paramount. To do so parents and other caregivers must step up to the plate and make sure their homes are child-proof when it comes to drugs and alcohol. They also must remain on constant alert, and look for signs that their children could be acquiring drugs through other means.

“The reality is once there’s a push back on one area it will pop up in another,” said Trumpetto. “Once they can’t get prescription drugs easily the next best choice is the heroin, and that is part of the problem we are seeing in our county.”

In fact, heroin is reportedly the

go-to drug for teens these days.

“It’s a scary world for kids to be growing up in when heroin is the drug of choice,” said Sauer. “I can’t for the life of me figure out where did we go wrong as people that that’s the drug of choice. It’s frightening.”

It’s due, largely, to the low sticker price of the drug, which can be obtained for very little money.

“It shocked me when I heard that a hit of heroin can be \$7 to \$10. That’s cheaper than a bottle of wine,” said Millerton Police Department Officer-in-Charge David Rudin. “And it’s like with most of the other drugs; you can ingest it in many different ways.”

In order to feed that habit, McMorris said, many users turn to crime.

“By using [drugs] the demand for it increases, and as the demand increase so does crime, though I can’t say all crime committed is because of drug use, but as people are addicted and inebriated by opiates they’re not able to hold down jobs and function as normal people,” she said. “So houses are broken into more and more cars are stolen. There seems to be a connection we’re running into that a lot of crime has to do with drug use, and it’s tragic.”

In an effort to track at-risk youth, CAPE has contracted with SUNY New Paltz to conduct a survey with willing public schools and their eighth-, 10th- and 12th-grade classes. Webutuck did not opt to participate,

though its neighboring districts Pine Plains and Dover both did. CAPE is hoping to soon have the results of that survey and discuss them in a follow-up forum in the first quarter of 2014.

Dealing with issue of drug abuse in the schools is important, all agreed, because it reaches children when they’re young and open to learning.

“They’re most impressionable in the middle- and high-school years, and the earlier we can reach them and educate them on the hazards and dangers of drug use and abuse the likelier we can steer kids away from the threat and steer them towards programs that are much healthier and productive, like the school drama club or sports,” said Sauer.

Trumpetto agreed imprinting the drug-free philosophy sooner is better than later, but said the burden is not solely on the school districts.

“Schools are in a position where they are expected to solve a myriad of problems that emanate from individuals, families and the community at large,” she said. “They have an enormous task and if you look clearly at their mission, their intention is to try to teach our kids the skills necessary to get them a high school diploma ... and there’s a lot of controversy regarding the Common Core, and additional challenges regarding the property tax cap, and they’re asked to do more and more with less and less.”

“I think they are doing their very best to manage the challenges that go through their doors on a daily basis ... Clearly there is more to be done, but that’s not solely the schools that should shoulder that responsibility. It is the community where we all live that needs to accept those responsibilities.”

Sauer, for his part, said the Webutuck district is aware the heroin problem is lurking nearby and that it’s prepared to run interference. One way it has and will continue to deal with the issue of drugs on campus is to make use of CAPE and the programs it offers. As always, another way is through increased awareness and education.

“I think the greatest efforts that we can make in terms of steering students away from harmful activities are through education and we absolutely need parents to help the schools to work in concert with the schools to make sure the same message is being heard in homes as well as in schools,” said Sauer. “Education is the way to help kids make the right choices. If kids have a better understanding of what drugs do to them physically, emotionally and mentally, that serves as a greater incentive.”

LYME DISEASE *Continued from Page A1*

“I’ve gotten so many calls,” Miles said, including one from a woman in Copake whose primary doctor doesn’t know how to help her and another from a mother in North Canaan, Conn., whose doctor insists there is no problem with her children.

“What 7-year-old complains about headaches and backs hurting all day?” Miles asked. “But the doctor says it’s not real.”

Denying Lyme’s authenticity is surprisingly common, Miles said.

He’s also received calls from

families in Amenia and Salisbury, Conn., and a part-time Millerton resident with Lyme now living in Florida, Calvin Temenski, who reached out to this newspaper because he’d caught wind of the article from another sufferer and friend in Millerton.

“Lyme disease is affecting so many, it’s great to have the information,” Temenski said.

Through all the networking, Miles has discovered another local Lyme doctor, Kenneth B. Liegner in Pawling.

Pleased that word is spread-

ing and that victims are rallying, Miles is pursuing further steps to see that action for reform is taken.

One such step came to him, in fact, as another response to the article; it was from State Sen. Terry Gipson’s (D-41) office.

In a press release sent out earlier this year, Gipson announced three proposed bills in advocacy for Lyme treatment reform.

“We need to help our citizens who are currently suffering from tick-borne illnesses — those who cannot afford the exorbitant expenses associated with long-term treatment as well as those who can’t find treatment because doctors fear retribution for treating these diseases,” Gipson stated.

In an interview, Gipson and Miles discussed the risks doctors take if they break current International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society guidelines for Lyme treatment, which limit prescription strength and dosage.

“Limited doctors are willing to engage in this,” Gipson said, citing loss of medical licensure as a palpable repercussion.

According to the senator’s Lyme legislation package, The Doctor Protection Act “would protect doctors from discipline by the Board of Medical Examiners so they can prescribe long-term treatment regimens to their patients who need that treatment.”

The Tick Borne-Illness Treatment and Education Act (Tick-BITE) would compliment The Doctor Protection Act, rendering New York health insurance companies accountable for tick-borne

illness related medical costs.

Lastly, The Tickborne Research Aid Act (TickRAID) would provide \$1 million in state grant money for relevant “research, prevention and education” purposes, Gipson said.

The senator cited Cary and Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County as district organizations that would be eligible to apply for grants from this funding.

“We want to make sure the money is spent in an economically fiscal way,” he said, “organizations will have to apply for the money and specify what the money is for ... [and] prove they can find preventions.”

The senator is confident this bill will pass, as \$1 million is only a fraction out of New York State’s \$141 million overall budget. The state currently contributes only \$65,000 to such research, he said.

As for the other bills, Gipson calls for the public to speak out in support of them, to advise New York senators that Lyme is a real illness and that tick-borne diseases are a threat to public health.

The senator invited Miles to

testify for him in front of the senate committee as an example that Lyme is real and taking serious tolls.

“This is a perfect example of the type of story that we need to get broadcast across the state,” Gipson said. “There are senators up in Albany who refuse to acknowledge this ... [who] accuse patients of making this up.”

“Do you really think people would spend \$14,000 if they were making this up?” the senator asked, referencing Miles’ accumulated costs.

Miles agreed to the senator’s proposition and is planning the arrangement.

“I’m doing it because I know so many people are out there who are sick, who have no idea where to go,” he said, “and I’m fighting for them.”

To contact Miles for more information, call 914-466-3834 or email marc.miles@me.com.

To contact Sen. Gipson call his Poughkeepsie office at 845-463-0840.

Send your news and stories to editor@millertonnews.com

SKIP MEAL *Continued from Page A1*

gry. If you feed kids, from there you can teach them other things. That’s how you change the future, by doing it with the children of today.”

Skip Meal works by asking participants to skip one or more meals and contribute the money from what would be spent on those meals to www.skipmeal.org. Donations can also be dropped of at any of the 35 local drop-off sites listed on the Skip Meal website.

Skip Meal has joined with other organizations, like Catholic Charities, Grace Episcopal Church in Millbrook and the Food of Life Pantry it supports, located at St. Thomas’s Church in Amenia Union, as well as the Bread of Life food pantry, to help it reach its goal.

“A little goes a long way’ is not just a saying in this case. Did you know that donating as little as \$5 can feed a family of eight people?”

posed a question on the Skip Meal website. “Think about how little \$5 impacts our daily life.”

The program’s goal is to bring awareness and change to needy families throughout Dutchess County.

“We created this program for those in need throughout our community; for children whose parents can’t afford to feed them in this tough economy and for children who have been emotionally and physically abused,” said its organizers on the website. “The money donated from each and every person is used to directly address the needs of youth and their families.”

“We’re all trying to do the same thing,” said Mannese. “We’re trying to fight hunger, save lives and give those in need a better future. And if you make a difference for one person you can make a difference.”



Ibis Guzman
*Assistant Vice President
Manager, Pine Plains Branch*

Putting out fires is part of the job

And if you're Ibis, a certified interior firefighter, sometimes that can mean real fires. Ibis grew up in Pine Plains, and although he left for a while, he returned because he missed living in a community where people care about each other. He likes that this is the type of place where you can work with the local elementary school, in this case Seymour Smith, set up a student savings program, teach the kids good habits, and then find them pointing you out to their parents on the street, proud they know you.

Helping people makes Ibis happy. Having Ibis run our Pine Plains branch makes us, and our customers, happy too. After all, the occasional fire does have to be put out, whether it's the building down the street, or the money burning a hole in your kid's pocket.



**BANK OF MILLBROOK
STISSING**

2971 CHURCH STREET PINE PLAINS
11 HUNNS LAKE ROAD STANFORDVILLE
3263 FRANKLIN AVENUE MILLBROOK
5094 ROUTE 22 AMENIA

BANKOFMILLBROOK.COM
MEMBER FDIC

LITTLE GATES
CO.
WINE MERCHANTS



HOLIDAY WINES AND SPIRITS

Come to Millerton to find that special bottle of wine from our collection.

We feature small-volume, handcrafted wines from dedicated producers around the world — at a variety of affordable prices.

In addition, local residents Eric Rosenfeld and Chris Kennan have recently joined our management team and will be contributing their love of wine and their personal experience with French and Italian winemakers.

LAST MINUTE GIFT IDEAS?
We ship anywhere! And free local delivery.

34 MAIN STREET, MILLERTON, NY • 518-789-3899
December Hours: Monday - Saturday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. • Sunday 12 p.m. - 7 p.m.