



May 2022 Newsletter

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Mayor Tim Collopy

If you have questions or comments, please contact me at:

845-677-3939 option 5
villageofmillbrookmayor@gmail.com

Welcome to my May 2022 Newsletter. Since last month's newsletter was devoted to the annual budget in anticipation of the public hearing at our April Board of Trustees meeting, there are a lot of topics to cover for May.

Village Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

On 4/13/22, the Board of Trustees passed our new budget which was under the NYS-mandated tax cap. There were no changes to the proposed budget, details of which are posted on our website and which I covered in the last newsletter. The clerks are now working to ready the tax bills which will be issued on 6/1/22.

Early last year we received notice from the NYS Controller's Office that the fiscal stress rating for the Village had dropped to "Susceptible to Fiscal Stress". Thanks to the efforts of the clerks, trustees, and department heads who worked very hard over the past year to address the budgetary problems which caused that drop in rating, I'm very happy to report that the State Controller's Office has just informed us that we are no longer rated "Susceptible"! The new designation, "No Rating", is the highest available and we are committed to stay there.

Bennett College and the Thorne Building



The Millbrook Community Partnership (MCP) leadership and their contractors deserve kudos for the successful demolition of the Bennett College buildings. This has already made a significant improvement to the southern entrance of the Village, but the future is even brighter. The site plan for Bennett Park can be found on their website at www.millbrookbennettpark.org, which I encourage you to review.

Now that the Thorne Building interior has been certified to be clear of all hazardous materials, MCP is planning an **Open House on May 28th from 9AM to noon** so they can showcase their renovation plans. Make plans to take a guided tour of this historic Village treasure and see the planned improvements.

Millbrook HS Girls Basketball



At a Millbrook School board meeting on 5/3/22, I presented a proclamation to each member and coach of the Millbrook HS Girls' basketball team recognizing their accomplishment in winning the NYS basketball championship and stating

that March 20th (the day of their state championship victory) will hereafter be known as "Lady Blazers' Day".

Millbrook Boy Scout Troop 31 Eagle Scout

Congratulations to Declan Noonan who is the latest member of Troop 31 to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout by building baseball bat racks at local little league fields. Good luck to him as he heads to college in the Fall.

Fire Company Installation Dinner

On 4/30/22 our volunteer Fire Company held their annual meeting to install their new officers. Hosted by President Matt Rochfort, it recognized the many recent accomplishments of its members including those who surpassed 55, 50, and 50 years of service, respectively: Mickey Prisco, Leroy Swart, and Guy Farrington. Thanks to all the fire & rescue volunteers for their service to our community!

Arbor Day Celebration



On 4/29/22, National Arbor Day, we held a tree-planting ceremony on Elm Drive with students from Elm Drive Elementary. The ceremony was coordinated by Trustee Herzog, hosted by Principal Setaro, and included a presentation by Arborist Gendron of Twin Brooks Gardens. I attended along with MCSD Superintendent Mitchell and witnessed the initiation of many future gardeners.

Sump pump flows into the sewer system

It's well-known that basements throughout the Village are susceptible to flooding because of the high water table. With the recent heavy downpouring of rain this Spring, the Wastewater Treatment Plant has been inundated with a large amount of extra flow into our sewer system. Based on experience, we are convinced that this extra flow comes from Village residents & businesses who channel water from basement sump pumps into the system, which is a violation of the Village Code (**Chapter 180 Sewer & Water**). While VRI & the Code Enforcement Officer will inspect for this violation when on-site, we mainly rely on each resident to assess whether they are in violation and to take appropriate remedial action. If you contact VRI, they will assess your situation and recommend solutions. Please help us remove this unnecessary burden on our aging sewer infrastructure.

Retaining Wall along Harts Village Road

The cost to fix this retaining wall is estimated to be \$271K. We will be using our allocated American Rescue Fund money (\$144K) and have just received a bond from Bank of Millbrook to cover the remainder. Based on this, I gave the go-ahead to Delaware Engineering to begin. This project should be finished this summer and I will notify the affected neighbors as soon as we have a work schedule.

Senator Serino's Visit to Millbrook

On 4/12/22, Deputy Mayor Contino and I met in the Millbrook Library with Senator Sue Serino during her visit to the Village. Along with Mary Sontheimer, Director of Cardinal Hayes Home for Children, we asked for the Senator's help to persuade NYS DOT to do something to slow traffic around the Flagler Monument on Rt 343 given the number of accidents that occur there as well as bus traffic that enters and exits the monument intersection. I'll keep you posted on any progress we make with her team's help.

Scheduled Office Closures

On the **2nd Wednesday of each month** we hold a Board of Trustees meeting in the Firehouse. To prepare for this meeting, the clerks need to compile all invoices from the prior month for trustees' review/signature, generate the monthly expense report, prepare any resolutions or proclamations, and pull together and post the presentation package with inputs from each department head and trustee. For all this to happen in time for the meeting, **starting 5/11/22, I'm closing the office from outside business on days that we have board meetings.** Residents can still drop off payments or requests in the mail slot, but they won't be addressed until the next business day.

Friends of the Gazebo Fund Raising

On 5/12/22 at the Millbrook Winery, the Friends of the Gazebo are holding a fund-raising event from 6PM to 8PM. Details are available at www.millbrookgazebo.com.

Town of Washington Survey

The Town of Washington Comprehensive Plan Review Committee is conducting a **town-wide survey through 5/6/22** regarding future hospitality uses. All Village & Town residents are encouraged to participate by going to www.surveymonkey.com/r/Washington-cp.

COVID Test Kits available at Village Hall

As another mutant-version of COVID makes its way around the country, we've stockpiled test kits for Village residents at the Village Hall. If you want a kit but can't get to the Village Hall during office hours, let me know & I'll make a special arrangement for you.

Questions or Comments?

Email me at villageofmillbrookmayor@gmail.com

Call me at 845-677-3939 option 5

Tim Collopy
Mayor
Village of Millbrook

Village Board Meetings

Monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month

Millbrook Firehouse
20 Front Street, Millbrook, NY

MAY
11
6:00
PM

NEXT BOT MEETING

Visit our [meeting docs page](#) for [agendas](#) and documents relating to the upcoming meeting.

If you have questions or comments, don't hesitate to contact me
Mayor Tim Collopy villageofmillbrookmayor@gmail.com or 845-677-3939

option 5

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Village of Millbrook – 35 Merritt Ave., PO Box 349, Millbrook, NY 12545 | 845-677-3939

