



VILLAGE OF  
**MILLBROOK**



## IN THIS ISSUE

- ✓ The Flag on the Village Green
- ✓ Fiscal Stress Rating
- ✓ COVID-19
- ✓ Millbrook Police Update
- ✓ Demolition of Bennett College
- ✓ NYS Marijuana Law
- ✓ Tennis Court Resurfacing Project
- ✓ Replacing Gov.delivery with Blackboard
- ✓ Cooperation with the Town of Washington



**Mayor Tim Collopy**

If you have questions or comments, don't hesitate to contact me at:

**845-677-3939 option 5**  
[villageofmillbrookmayor@gmail.com](mailto:villageofmillbrookmayor@gmail.com)

# September 2021

---

## The Flag on the Village Green

We are fortunate in the Village of Millbrook to have a local VFW which places American flags throughout the Village on days when we commemorate those who sacrificed to protect our nation and our freedom. The recent anniversary of the 9/11/2001 terrorist attacks was such a day but a non-traditional flag was also put on the Village Green across from the

firehouse. Because the Village Green is private property, owned by the Tribute Gardens Foundation, the property owner asked that the VFW immediately replace the flag with a traditional American flag. However, the flag remained until the property owner returned the following Monday and personally removed it. There was also a Facebook post about the flag which omitted the fact that it was on private property and the owner wanted it removed. This post prompted many divisive, negative comments amongst various groups in the Millbrook community on what should have been a day of unity in support of our 1st-responder heroes. I have asked the senior military officer of the Millbrook VFW for their commitment to revert to the past practice of only flying traditional American flags throughout the Village on these commemorative days so we can focus on our common goal of honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice for all of us.

### **Fiscal Stress Rating of the Village of Millbrook**

In my [April Newsletter](#), I reported that the NYS Controller's Office had reduced the fiscal stress rating of the Village of Millbrook to "susceptible to fiscal stress". Since this was again reported in last week's Poughkeepsie Journal, I wanted to update you on our status. The reason for the decrease in rating was because our unrestricted General fund balance had dropped to about \$80K last year since the last few budgets ended with expenses exceeding revenues. We took immediate action earlier this year so that we finished the 2020-2021 fiscal year with revenues slightly above expenses and we replenished the General Fund with money owed from the Water & Sewer Funds such that our latest annual report shows an unrestricted General fund balance of \$211K. While this is a significant improvement, we will continue to seek opportunities to further increase this fund balance.

### **COVID-19**

The latest [positivity data in Dutchess County](#) is 3.3%, down from 5% a few weeks ago and the full vaccination rate of eligible residents in DC increased from 55% to 59% since my last report. At a special meeting of the board of trustees on 8/31, the [Millbrook Business Association](#) made the case for cancelling the annual Community Day which had been scheduled for 9/18 and the board supported the MBA's decision.

### **Millbrook Police Update**

As reported by Officer-In-Charge Witt and Officer Aluisio at last week's board meeting, there were 3 significant police actions within the past month. (1) The juveniles who had damaged the Thorne building, the VFW building and the gas station sign have been identified and appropriate action is being taken. (2) The MB Police also assisted the local FBI in

identifying suspects who were associated with the recent rash of car break-ins which occurred in Millbrook and other localities in New York & Connecticut. (3) The MB Police provided the lead to the NYSP which resulted in the arrest of a package-delivery driver for possible rape of a minor.

Although the police have increased patrols throughout the village, residents continue to be the best source of information and so, **if you see something, call the Millbrook Police at 845-677-8200.**

### Demolition of Bennett College



With the board's acceptance of the \$5K fee from the [Millbrook Community Partnership](#) on 8/11, all necessary approvals were in place and demolition has since started. The above photo shows the gutting of the dorm building as seen from Rte. 343.

### NYS Marijuana Law

As reported last month, given NYS's legalization of adult-use cannabis, [municipalities have until year-end to "opt-out"](#) of allowing cannabis dispensaries or lounges within their boundaries. If we "opt-out" by year-end, we can "opt-in" at a later date, but no action defaults to being "opted-in". Therefore, the Village board passed a [resolution](#) of introduction this month to "opt-out" which will be followed by a public hearing at the October board of trustees meeting on the path to making the "opt-out" decision a local law by year-end.

## **Tennis Court Resurfacing Project**

With nearly \$24K raised to-date and another generous donation committed by Tribute Gardens, we are intending to select the vendor and go to contract next month for the work to be completed in the Spring of 2022. If you would like to donate, please visit [villageofmillbrook.com/tennis](https://villageofmillbrook.com/tennis) for more information.

## **Replacing Gov.delivery with Blackboard**

The program we have been using to "push" information (like this Newsletter) to the Millbrook community is called "Gov.delivery". To be subscribed, individuals must self-enroll. This works fine for many of our needs, but VRI has recommended that we adopt a system called "Blackboard" which they use in other municipalities. In addition to the capabilities of Gov.delivery, Blackboard also allows the sending of targeted emergency information to residents. Examples include the ability to notify specific households when there will be outages (e.g., water, sewer, electric) or road closures or police/fire/rescue activity. The cost is \$5200 for the 1st year (which includes loading of all resident addresses) and then \$3300 per year vs. the annual cost of \$2500 for Gov.delivery. Implementation is expected to occur by year-end.

## **Cooperation with the Town of Washington**

The Village and the Town work quite well together and share resources on a variety of projects. The most-visible instances are during road repair and repaving when the Town saves Village disposal costs by taking our old blacktop and using it as fill for their roads. The Village uses Town equipment for road patching and helps with traffic-control when the Town does its own repairs. The Town & Village jointly contract with vendors for supplies of salt, sand, and fuel oil.

Additionally, there are 3 contracts between the Village and the Town: 1) For the Village to provide a police presence when Town Court is in session; 2) For the Village to lease the gym to the Town Rec Department; and 3) For the Village to provide Fire & Rescue services for Town residents. These contracts are currently up for renewal as part of the [Town's annual budget process](#).





### **UPDATE:**

Meetings are now being held in person at the **Millbrook Firehouse** located at 20 Front Street, Millbrook, NY

OCT  
12

6:00 PM

### **NEXT BOT MEETING**

Visit our [calendar](#) for updated meeting and event information.

**Please note date change this month due to conflict**

Update your subscriptions, modify your password or email address, or stop subscriptions at any time on your [Subscriber Preferences Page](#). You will need to use your email address to log in. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please contact [subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com](mailto:subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com). This service is provided to you at no charge by the [Village of Millbrook](#).

Provided as a shared service with Dutchess County Government