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MAYOR'S MONTHLY

The Village of Millbrook Monthly Newsletter By Mayor Tim Collopy



Mayor Tim Collopy

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**Community
Day**

10/7/2023

COMMUNITY DAY ACTIVITIES

The [Millbrook Business Association](#) (MBA) has enlisted the [Village of Millbrook](#), the [Millbrook Rotary Club](#), the [Millbrook Library](#) & the [Millbrook Arts Group](#) as co-hosts of this year's Community Day with a [variety of events](#) including sidewalk sales, food trucks, distillery tastings, a chili cook-off, and a host of activities for children. The [Farmers' & Makers' Market](#), [Dutchess County Mobile Health Unit RV](#), Fire & Police Departments will be on Church Street between Reservoir and Merritt, which will be the location for special events from 10AM to 2PM. Then activities move to the library from 2:30PM to 6PM. More information, including the [application form](#) for the [chili cookoff](#), can be found at the MBA's website, www.millbrooknewyork.com. If you have a highschooler who needs community service hours, we have a need for volunteers! Please email Sarah Witt at clerk@villageofmillbrookny.com to inquire about volunteering..

PHASES 1 & 2 SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT

The contract with Sun Up Construction Company is now signed and a walk-thru with the engineering firm & contractor is completed. We await NYS DOT's approval of a permit to begin the work which should occur over a 4-6-week time period, finishing no later than 11/15.

REPAVING RESERVOIR DRIVE; OIL & STONE OF CIFERRI DRIVE AND VALLEY FARM RD

Reservoir Drive was repaved this month over a 2-day period. The Hwy Department will be filling the gaps between the road and the sidewalk and/or yard with dirt & grass seed to finish the job.

To extend the life of the blacktop on Valley Farm Road and Ciferri Drive, a layer of oil and stone was applied last week. The loose stone was vacuumed and removed after a week.

YARD SIGN PROTOCOL

In order to keep the Village's right-of-way clear, I am asking that yard signs, whether they be commercial or political, be placed on the property-owner's side of the sidewalk or (if no sidewalk) 25' from the middle of the road. Of course, any signs put on private property should have the approval of the property owner. Note that the Village Green which abuts the gas station and that which contains the bus stop are the private property of Tribute Garden and should be treated as such.



MILLBROOK POLICE DEPARTMENT (MPD) UPDATE

As reported at the August board meeting, we have been having difficulty getting officers to fill the shifts in our budgeted police schedule for a variety of reasons, most significantly because of competition with other municipalities and businesses which pay more. Also, all our officers have other employment, either full time or part time, which limits their availability to cover shifts. To address this issue, I called a special board meeting on August 30th to discuss the MPD in executive session. The board voted to approve a plan which reduced the number of off-shift hours while increasing the number of required shifts per month and granting a \$3.40/hour salary increase to each officer. Given the salary not spent year-to-date along with the reduced number of hours per shift, this rate increase will be contained within the current budget for police salaries.

At last week's meeting (9/20/23), the board approved paying an estimated \$7K to fix the MPD's 2016 Ford so it can become road-worthy until we are ready to replace it in 1-2 years. Most recently, the engine failed on the MPD's 2020 Ford, and it must be replaced. The 2020 Ford is under warranty and is in the shop awaiting the arrival of the replacement engine.



SHORT TERM RENTAL CODE

At the September board meeting we received [additional public comments](#) regarding our proposed update to the Village Code for STR's. At the October board meeting, Deputy Mayor Doro will present a revised proposal and solicit feedback from the Trustees. If a majority agrees, then we will have a resolution-of-introduction at the November board meeting and announce a public hearing for the December meeting. As we have done the last 2 months, we will also be taking public comments at the October & November meetings, and of course, during the public hearing in December. These dates are best-case assuming that a review by Dutchess County Planning can occur in parallel and that there are no revisions. Any updates during the resolution-of-introduction or public hearing meetings require that we restart the process (as we did for the recent updates to the Vehicle & Traffic laws).



IN-STREET SIGNAGE

To slow traffic entering the Village business district and to remind drivers of the state law giving pedestrians the right-of-way when in a crosswalk, we have been putting signage in the street. My thanks to Tribute Garden for making a generous donation which we will use to replace one of the damaged "Stop for Pedestrians in Crosswalk" signs as well as cover the cost of 2 additional "No Standing" signs which we will place on Front Street on both sides of Franklin Avenue.

NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY - UPDATE (NRI)

Reps from the Village of Millbrook (Genevieve Glasson, Shannon LaDeau, and Trustee Herzog) have teamed with those from the Towns of Washington (ToW) & Clinton to work with the Cornell Institute and NYS DEC in compiling a detailed listing of the natural resources in our area. This is part of our commitment to becoming a Climate Smart Community. However, for the Village it is also very important so that we understand where our water comes from and what we need to do to ensure it is protected. On September 21st, Village Trustees & members of the ToW Council were presented with an update of the NRI work with a final report expected by year-end. The [video presentation](#) and [charts](#) can be found on our [website](#) within the [Shade Tree Committee page](#).

SEWER FLUSHING

In order to keep our sewer system working properly, every year VRI flushes 20-25% of our sewer main. The flushing occurs by using pressurized water to force the hose upstream, allowing the debris to flow downstream. If the sewer main is steeper than normal, additional pressure is needed to get upstream. This was required for part of the flushing 2 weeks ago resulting in water being forced out of the downstairs toilets in some residents' homes. In addition to keeping track of which houses are susceptible, for the next planned flushing (in 2024), VRI will look to modify its operation as well as improve the advanced notification to affected residents before the flushing occurs.

SIDEWALK SNOW PLOWING HELP WANTED

After 20 years of service, Matt Hurst has retired from clearing the Village sidewalks of snow (note that he will still be managing Tribute Garden). We have [posted the job](#) but are also soliciting bids from local landscapers in order to ensure continuity of this service.

REPLACING THE VILLAGE HALL FRONT STEPS



As anyone who comes to the Village Hall can see, the front steps are crumbling and probably won't make it through the winter. Trustee Murphy has solicited bids to replace them with new concrete, and the board approved the low bid of \$7810. The work is being planned for this Fall and will be funded with money in the consolidated trust fund account.

REPAIR OF TENNIS COURT SURFACE

Per Deputy Mayor Doro's request, this month the contractor who resurfaced our courts last Fall will return to repair/patch the cracks which have occurred since the resurfacing for free. The work requires the weather to dry out and may close the courts for 1-2 days, depending on the degree of patching required.

MILLBROOK RESTORATION ACTIVITIES

Millbrook Restorations is a committee (of which I am a member) which uses funds from Tribute Garden to assist local businesses who wish to improve their building structures. Our primary focus is on the front façade of business buildings, ensuring that improvements are consistent with the architectural history of the Village.

The committee has recently approved a partial grant for the House of Stefan (which is replacing Aurelia's restaurant) to make updates to the building frontage and the power washing of the awnings on the building which houses China Tokyo and Stewart's.



HALLOWEEN CANDY COLLECTION

Now-Oct 27

Do you love seeing all the local children dressed up in costume and enjoying Halloween? Do you get a lot of trick or treaters at your house? Well those in the Village of Millbrook get hundreds of little ones on their doorsteps. It becomes quite costly to supply all that candy! We are reaching out to our community to ask that if you would like to donate to help these families out. If you would like to donate, **please drop off your donations to the Recreation Office at 10 Reservoir Drive.**

(Town of Washington Town Hall)

TRICK-OR TREATING IN THE VILLAGE OF MILLBROOK

Tuesday, October 31st