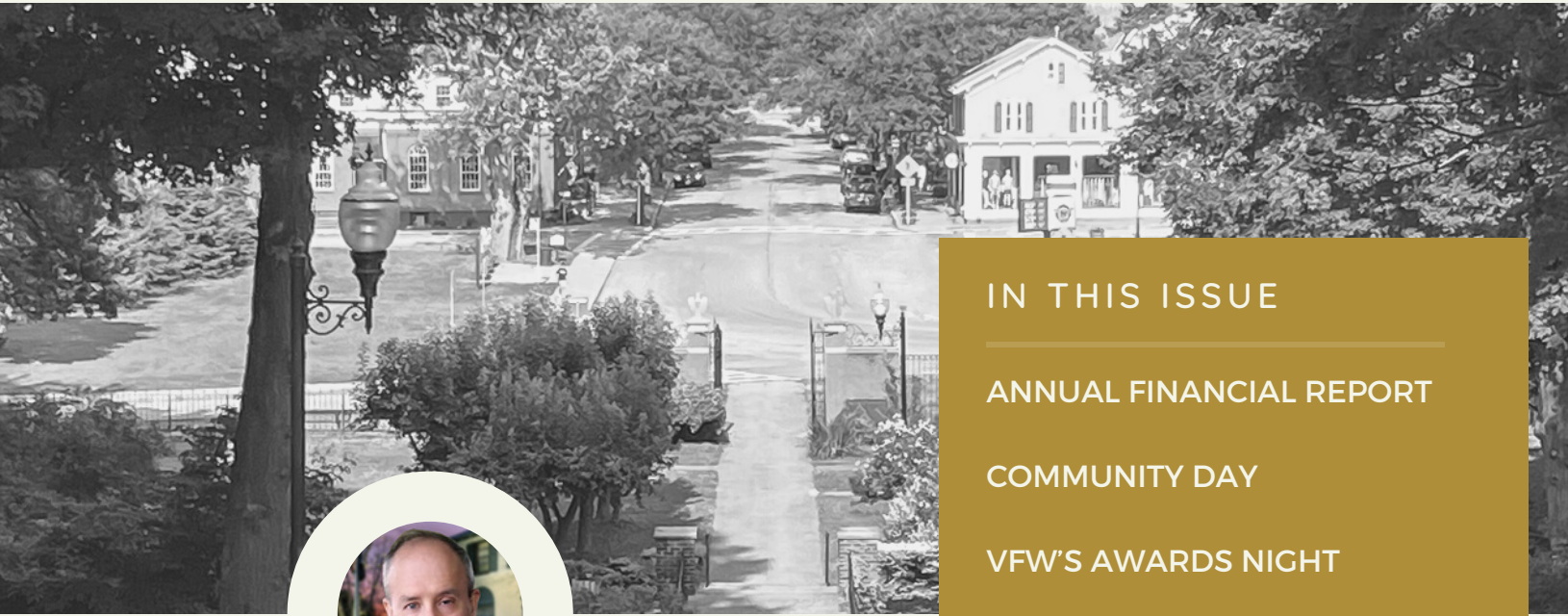




OCTOBER 2023 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 10

MAYOR'S MONTHLY

The Village of Millbrook Monthly Newsletter By Mayor Tim Collopy



Mayor Tim Collopy

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

845-677-3939 option 5

villageofmillbrookmayor@gmail.com



HALLOWEEN CANDY COLLECTION

Now-Oct 27

If you would like to donate candy, 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

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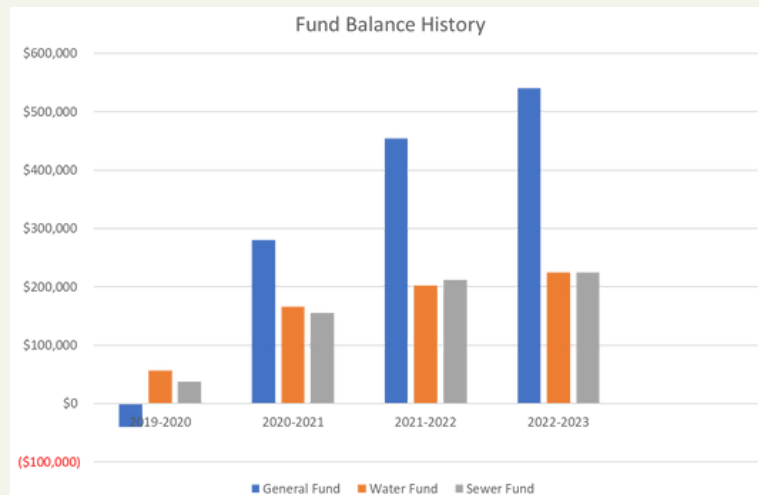
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ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (AFR) SHOWS IMPROVING FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Within 3 months of the close of every fiscal year, each NYS municipality must submit an AFR to the NYS Controller's Office, providing a detailed analysis of the health of its financial status. At last week's monthly board meeting, Senior Account Clerk Karen McLaughlin [presented a summary of our report](#) for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year. It shows that our focus on expense management and revenue growth over the past 3 years has improved our fund balance in each of our 3 budgets (General Fund, Water Fund, and Sewer Fund) and we have now achieved an unallocated General Fund balance which is 25% of our current year's budget of \$2.1M.

Based on our experience over the past 3 years, I am confident that this 25% ensures that we will now have sufficient cash on-hand throughout the fiscal year so that bills can be paid monthly despite revenue being received primarily in 2 lump sums (after Village property tax bills are issued and when the Town of Washington pays their portion of the fire/rescue contract). This fund balance is the result of disciplined focus and teamwork from the Clerks, Department Heads and Trustees, and I thank them for their efforts.



MILLBROOK COMMUNITY DAY WAS A SUCCESS

Congratulations to MBA President Buffy Arbogast and her hard-working committee who responded to the weather forecast with a "Plan B" that moved most activities into the Library and Village Hall. Since the rain did not get heavy until the afternoon, there were still many events along Franklin as well, and we have received very positive feedback from those who attended.

MILLBROOK VFW'S 1ST ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT WAS A HIT



On October 14th at the Millbrook Firehouse, Commander Jeff Moseman and Vice Commander Dave Rogers held Post 9008's 1st annual event to salute the volunteering efforts of those in the VFW and others in the Millbrook community. Various certificates and medals were given to each of those who were recognized for their contributions.



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS

Please join your fellow residents by volunteering to help decorate the Village for the holiday season prior to Thanksgiving and to help with the Parade of Lights on December 1st.

If you would like to volunteer, please call me, Tim Collopy, at **845-677-3939 option 5** or send an email to the following:

Decorating: mbapresident@millbrooknewyork.com
Parade of Lights: ceciliacollopy@gmail.com

PHASES 1 & 2 SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT IS IMMINENT

We are expecting NYS DOT's permit any day and so Sun-Up is planning to start prep work this week, beginning with removal of the 5 designated trees. The entire job is expected to occur over a 4-6-week time period, although replacement of the 5 trees will wait until next Spring when the best quality of trees will be available.

LEAF PICKUP HAS BEGUN



Leaf pick-up runs from **October 1 - November 30** each year. The Highway Department will be removing leaves that have been placed at the edge of the Village roads. Please ensure the piles contain only leaves because grass clippings, brush or garden plants will damage the leaf vacuum.

For more details visit:

villageofmillbrookny.com/public-works/#leaf

TRASH CAN ORDINANCE NEEDS ADHERENCE

Please be mindful of [Village code 195-11](#) which states that garbage cans are to be placed at the edge of your property no sooner than the night before pickup and removed no later than dusk of the day of pickup. Please help keep the Village neat and orderly by adhering to this local law.

SEMINAR ON THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC AND NARCAN TRAINING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Dutchess County's Department of Health has agreed to come to the **Millbrook Firehouse** on **Monday, 11/13 at 6 PM** to give a 1-hour class on the opioid problem and how to save an overdose victim by using NARCAN (Naloxone). Each attendee will also be given a free NARCAN kit. You must **notify the office** beforehand so the instructors know how many kits to bring. If interested, please contact me at **845-677-3939 option 5** or at villageofmillbrookmayor@gmail.com to say that you will attend.

FREEBIES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE VILLAGE HALL

In addition to our remaining supply of COVID test kits, every household is eligible to receive up to 4 kits directly from the US Government: www.covid.gov/tests

If you suspect that you may be COVID positive or have been exposed and need some test kits, please call the office and we will arrange to leave some on the porch outside for you. We also have KN-95 masks available in the office and the Millbrook Police Department has a supply of gunlocks available for residents at no cost.

VILLAGE SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION ON FRANKLIN AVENUE REQUESTED

I have asked NYS DOT to reduce the speed limit on Franklin Avenue from 30 to 25mph, given the high volume of traffic during the day and the narrowness of the street. Per their request, we initiated the process by passing a [resolution](#) at last week's board meeting. They will come do an evaluation of our request because it violates the state highway minimum of 30mph.

Since Franklin Avenue is a state highway, any change requires DOT approval. However, at the board meeting we also initiated a discussion about whether we should reduce the speed limit on most every other Village road to 25mph. This we could do with an update to our Vehicle & Traffic Law ([Chapter 220](#)).



SHORT TERM RENTAL (STR) CODE PROPOSAL HAS BEEN UPDATED

Deputy Mayor Doro presented our [latest proposed STR code](#) at last week's board meeting. This proposal modified some of the conditions based on feedback at the last few board meetings:

- Replaced the lottery system with a wait-list.
- Reduced the maximum number of permits from 20 to 15.
- Increased the number of allowed renters per STR from 6 to 8 (not counting those under 5 years of age).
- Eliminated the maximum number of allowed rental days per year or per week.
- Eliminated the requirement that STRs cannot be on adjacent lots.
- Reduced the response time required for any complaint from 2 hours to 1 hour.
- Replaced the "owner-occupancy" requirement with a requirement that the STR be the owner's primary residence and that the owner have a designated property manager on call whenever the owner is not present.
- Increased the "grace" period to meet the primary residence requirement from 6 months to 2 years (all other requirements must be met at the start).

The permit continues to be for 2 years with a \$1000 fee and annual inspection requirement. Fines for non-compliance, including permit-removal, are still included.

The outlook is to submit the latest proposal to DC Planning for review this month and, if accepted, bring a resolution-of-introduction to the November board meeting. If this is accepted by the board, then a public hearing would be set for the December board meeting.



WATER & SEWER RATES WILL BE REASSESSED

We are committed to keeping each of our 3 budgets (General, Water, and Sewer) "stand-alone" which means all costs incurred within each is covered by the revenue generated by each. We set the water rate each budget season so that the revenue from that portion of your water/sewer bill covers the expected cost of operating the water service. The same is done (separately) for the sewer rate.

Since both water and sewer revenues are dependent on metered water usage and, to-date, this fiscal year has seen 25% less water generated vs. the same period last year (last year was very dry while this year has been very wet), I have asked for a mid-year assessment of our revenue outlook. If we do project a shortfall in revenue, we will reassess planned expenses for the remainder of the year as well as whether a mid-year rate increase is necessary.