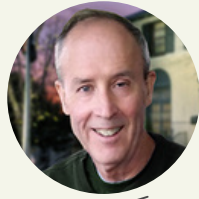




DECEMBER 2023 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 12

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



THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED KICK OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON IN MILLBROOK

To **Buffy Arbogast & Dawn Carolie**, the Millbrook Business Association, the Village Highway Department and all the volunteers who helped decorate the Village with trees, lights, and displays throughout. To **Rob Dyson** and his crew for purchasing, erecting, and decorating the big tree in front of Tribute Garden and to **Willie & Trustee Pat Murphy** for lighting the tree at the top of Franklin Avenue.

To **Ceil Collopy and all the volunteers** who made the Parade of Lights a success, and to the Millbrook PD, Millbrook FD & NY State Police who controlled traffic so the roads were safe for pedestrians and floats despite the rainy weather. To **John McDonald** who volunteered to emcee the parade and to **Lori Decker** who ran a very successful Meet-and-Greet with Santa & Mrs. Claus at the Angels of Light.

To **Rabbi Hanoch** for leading the annual lighting of the Menorah in front of the Thorne Building.

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ANGELS OF LIGHT IS COLLECTING TOYS FOR HOSPITALIZED CHILDREN

Lori Decker's Angels of Light is collecting dolls and trucks for children ages 2 to 11 who are in any of 7 local hospitals. Collection boxes are dispersed throughout the Village including at the Village Hall and donations will be accepted until Saturday, December 23rd. Email info@angelsoflighthv.org with any questions.

PROPOSED WATER BILL INCREASE

Because of surprisingly wet weather this year and the increased interest rate to roll over the 2 BANs from the water filtration project, a recent analysis found that water and sewer revenues were projected to be \$60K and \$40K, respectively, below projected expenses by the end of this fiscal year (May 31st of 2024). A review with VRI identified expense reductions of \$22K and \$24K, respectively, by delaying some non-critical activities to the next fiscal year. Additionally, the clerks identified \$10K of re-levied fees in each fund (water and sewer) that will be re-paid by the end of the fiscal year and estimated an additional \$5K would be earned by funds for the sewer pump project that are currently in NYCLASS.

While these actions and estimates mean that the sewer revenues will meet expenses, there remains a \$30K shortfall in the water fund. To address this, I have proposed adding a \$20/meter charge to each quarterly water bill starting with the January billing. This fixed charge would be independent of how much water is used and is akin to the sewer Special Benefit Assessment, recognizing the need to maintain infrastructure independent of usage. While VoM water bills have been based solely on a fee per 1000 gallons used, most other municipalities have a fixed, minimum charge like what I am proposing.

I presented this proposal at last week's board meeting (a chart with more details is included in the meeting documents) and intend to propose a resolution to adopt this change at the January 10th meeting after board and public comments.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

- Chief Dominic Boscardin announced that 7 residents have joined the volunteer Millbrook Fire Department which makes the total number of active volunteers now around 40. **New volunteers are always welcome** and interested residents should **call 845-677-3871** for more information.
- The new pickup for Assistant Chief Kevin Granger has arrived and will have lettering and lights/sirens installed over the next few weeks.

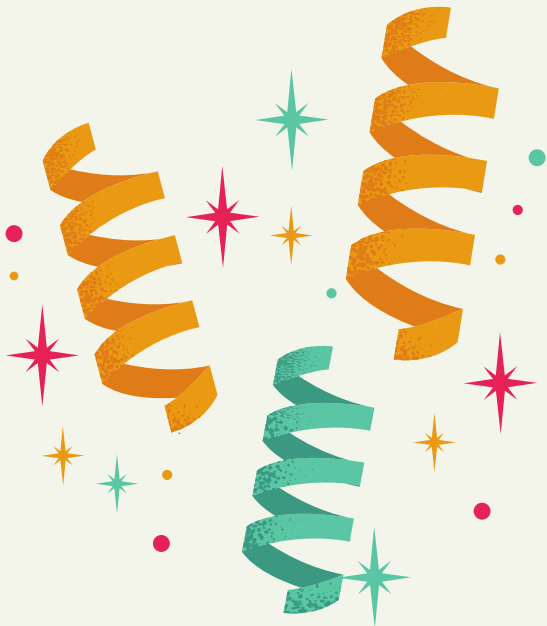
POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

- Congratulations to Officer-in-Charge Jared Witt for achieving 15 years of service in the Millbrook Police Department.
- After months of struggles, both police vehicles are back in service for road patrols.
- OIC Jared Witt and Trustee Vicky Contino are meeting with Lexipol weekly to implement an official set of Millbrook Police Department Policies and Procedures. To date, after a month of work, 19 of the 31 Tier 1 policies have been approved. It is expected to take 4-6 more months to complete the manual.
- When the electronic speed sign was placed on Nine Partners Road recently, there was a reduction in compliance vs. the last time it was there, so Millbrook Police Department will be increasing patrols in the area.
- A resolution-of-introduction to reduce the maximum speed limit on Village roads to 25 mph was passed by the Board of Trustees at last week's meeting. A public hearing for this resolution is scheduled for the board meeting on January 10th.



GRANTS RECEIVED BY THE VILLAGE

- The NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) has awarded the Village of Millbrook a Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) grant of \$1.8375M towards the upgrade of our Waste Water Treatment Plant. This award covers 25% of the expected \$7.35M total cost and comes with a 30-year, 0% interest loan for the remaining 75%. As we are applying for additional funding from other NYS sources, I have asked Delaware Engineering to propose to the board in January a prioritized, multi-phased plan so we can begin work while processing additional grant requests.
- The replacement of the South Millbrook sewer pump is scheduled for early 2024 and is estimated to cost \$325K-350K. To alleviate most of that cost, NYS Senator Michelle Hinchey and NYS Assembly Member Didi Barrett have each designated \$125K of NYS member money to go towards this project. We have now been approved to begin billing against this total grant of \$250K and will apply for a bank bond to cover the remainder when the BAN comes due.
- As part of her focus on helping NYS police departments acquire necessary equipment, Assembly Member Didi Barrett has also provided Millbrook Police Department with a \$10K grant for police protective apparel.



UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS!

Sunday, December 31st

MILLBROOK NEW YEAR'S EVE

On Sunday, December 31st from 4 to 6PM, the Millbrook Rotary Club will be presenting NYE Millbrook at Grace & Lyall Churches. There will be a variety of family games and entertainment with music provided by the Millbrook Arts Group. Volunteers and sponsors are needed. If you would like to help or for more information, email nyemillbrook@gmail.com.



Exclusive New Years Eve Millbrook stickers, designed by MCSD student, Alynn Sonner, are available for a suggested donation of \$5 each.

How to Get Your Stickers: Starting NOW, swing by Merritt Bookstore, Reardon Briggs, and Village Wine & Spirits to snag your New Years Eve Millbrook sticker (and night of programs) for just \$5! Each sticker is your passport to an evening of joy, laughter, and celebration. Your support through the purchase of these stickers helps make this community celebration possible. It's a fantastic way to contribute to the vibrant spirit of Millbrook as we come together to welcome the new year. (Stickers will also be available on the night of under the lights of the Thorne Building!)

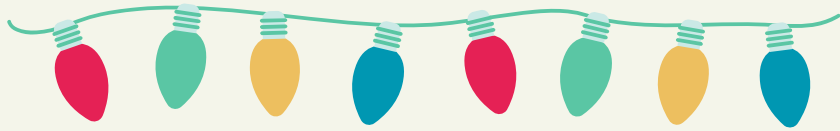


SIDEWALK PROJECT

Trustee Mike Herzog reported that, thanks to intense focus by the contractor, Sun Up, and some abnormally mild Fall weather, Phases 1&2 of the sidewalk project were completed with the following exceptions:

- 1.To taper the sidewalk into the street sufficiently and meet ADA requirements at the corner of Front Street and Franklin Avenue, Optimum must lower or move their cable box that sits in the middle of sidewalk, and they expect to do this over the next few months.
- 2.The replacement of the 5 removed trees will occur when fresh nursery stock is available in the Spring.

The cost of the work completed to-date is \$213K and the cost of the remaining 2 items is estimated to be \$15K. The Community Development Block Grant is \$200K, so the remaining ~\$30K will be covered by the Village.



SHORT TERM RENTAL CODE UPDATE

At last week’s board meeting, Deputy Mayor Peter Doro described the recent, minor changes made to the proposed code based on suggestions by the DC Planning Department and Village Code Enforcement Officer, Ken McLaughlin. The board voted to accept this resolution-of-introduction and we have scheduled a public hearing for the next board meeting on January 10th. A copy of the proposed code can be found on the Village website within the documents of the December board meeting.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE VILLAGE HALL

This Summer we had the rotted 1st floor windows replaced in the office-portion of the Village Hall and we just had shades installed for the same windows last week.

The Village Hall front steps were crumbling and becoming unsafe to walk on so Trustee Pat Murphy solicited bids to replace them. Again, thanks to the continuing mild weather this Fall, Bob Simoncelli, who submitted the lowest bid, removed the old and poured new concrete steps last week.



Both projects were paid with either donated money or money retrieved from the consolidated trust fund account, not from the budget.



SNOW ORDINANCE IN EFFECT DEC 1 - MAR 31

PARKING IS PROHIBITED on all Village streets from **12:00 AM to 6:00 AM** starting **December 1st thru March 31st**. Obstruction of snow removal and street cleaning is prohibited. Violators will be ticketed.

Please Note: Article 1219 of New York State VTL prohibits plowing, shoveling, or blowing snow into a street or highway

For more information visit: villageofmillbrookny.com/public-works/