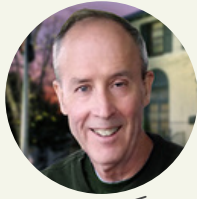




JANUARY 2024 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

MAYOR'S MONTHLY

The Village of Millbrook Monthly Newsletter By Mayor Tim Collopy



Mayor Tim Collopy

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Happy New Year

NYE MILLBROOK WAS A SUCCESS!

Congratulations to the **Millbrook Rotary Club**, especially organizers **Michelle Del Valle** (Club President) and **Ashley Lempka**, for a great restart of the traditional Village celebration to finish off the year. There was a variety of entertainment for all ages condensed into a 2 ½ hour event. Thanks also to the 20 businesses and families who helped sponsor the events.



Photos by Judith O'Hara Balfe

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THE NEED FOR BLOOD DONATIONS IS CRITICAL

If eligible, please consider donating blood at one of the Red Cross blood drives held throughout the County, including at the Millbrook Firehouse. Pre-registration is required through the [Red Cross website](https://www.redcrossblood.org) and the next drives at the Firehouse are scheduled for February 13th and March 1st. For more information visit redcrossblood.org



Download The Blood Donor App

Put The Power to Save Lives in The Palm of Your Hand!

- Find and Map Local Blood Drives
- Easy Appointment Scheduling
- Stay Updated on Special Promotions
- Track Your Blood Donations




TOWN OF WASHINGTON HAS DECIDED NOT TO USE THE VILLAGE GYM IN 2024

The Village of Millbrook has annually leased the Village Hall gym to the Town of Washington for their Rec Department. The contract terms were set to cover the costs to heat, light, and clean the gym over the 12-month period. However, this year Town of Washington proposed only paying that proportion of the contract price when youth basketball is in session. Since those winter months (Dec-Apr) are when over 80% of the annual heating costs are incurred, this would require the Village to operate at a significant financial loss, so I decided not to continue the contract. The Town has instead moved this year's basketball program to Dutchess Day School, and we are closing the gym to save heating costs.

In addition to making the gym available for Village events, we will consider opening it for groups who are willing to pay the operating costs.

WATER BILL INCREASE HAS BEEN APPROVED

As I have been reporting at board meetings and in newsletters since October, immediate action was required to close a projected shortfall in water revenues this fiscal year. Based on an analysis which I presented at the December board meeting, the Board of Trustees voted at January's meeting to accept my proposed \$20 per water meter fixed charge to each quarterly water bill which is in addition to the \$7.50/1000 gallons of water used. This additional charge is effective immediately and will show in the January bill.

UPDATES TO VILLAGE LOCAL LAWS

At the January board meeting, we passed a resolution to lower the Village-wide speed limit (except for the state-owned Franklin Avenue) to 25mph. Signs with the new speed limit will have a yellow sign attached above each for the first few months calling attention to the change. Since half of the new signs are for traffic turning from Franklin, we will await implementation until DOT responds to my request to lower the speed limit on Franklin to 25mph, which is expected in the next few months.

At the same board meeting we opened the public hearing to implement the new local law covering short term rentals but since complete copies of the associated paperwork were not available until 2 days before the meeting, we decided to keep the public hearing open for the February board meeting.

FEMA REIMBURSEMENT OF COVID-RELATED EXPENSES

Congratulations and thanks to Trustee Contino and Clerk/Treasurer Witt for getting a \$15K reimbursement for the Village's COVID-related spending during the pandemic. Part of these funds will be used to upgrade the audio and video equipment at our monthly board meetings.