



VILLAGE OF MILLBROOK

Mayer's Monthly

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THE VILLAGE OF MILLBROOK MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY MAYOR PETER F. DORO



Happy Fall,

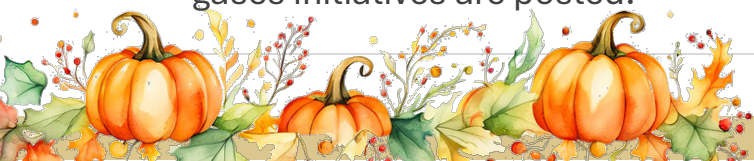
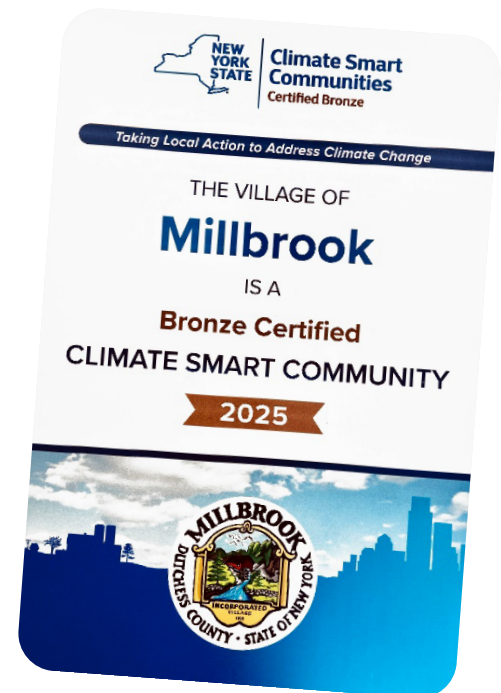
Italian-American Heritage and Culture Month and Columbus Day!

CSC BRONZE CERTIFICATION

The Village of Millbrook has been awarded **Bronze Certification by NYS.**

The Village of Millbrook is proud to announce that our community has earned Bronze Status in the Climate Smart Communities Program. Since our Village Board took the Climate Smart Community Pledge in 2022, a number of community improvements associated with our program have been completed.

Among many other things, Central Hudson owned street lights in our Village have been converted to LED lighting, sidewalks have been repaired or replaced along our commercial center on Franklin Avenue to make it safer and more walkable; Bennett Park has opened to the public, offering more green space to our community, EV charging stations have been established in the Town of Washington parking area; a critical initiative to update and capture a Natural Resources Inventory was compiled for the Village and Town of Washington; a Village of Millbrook CSC page was created and posted for use on the Village of Millbrook website, and building codes have been updated reflecting changing laws and our efforts to reduce greenhouse gases initiatives are posted.



The Climate Smart Committee led by Genevieve Glasson and past Village Board members Tim Collopy, Mike Herzog and Vicky Contino were essential in getting these projects completed and having our Bronze Certification submitted for review by NY State DEC. The Village Board also recognizes employees at the Village Hall, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Mid-Hudson Regional Council, Partners for Climate Action and the NY State DEC Hudson River Estuary Program for all of their technical assistance and financial support.

Additionally, several initiatives during this process for Bronze certification were conducted in tandem with the Town of Washington - therefore, acknowledgement is due to their CAC leadership and members, their staff, including Town Supervisor, Gary Cifferri, for endorsement and collaboration along the way.

You can learn more about this program by visiting our Village of Millbrook website at <https://villageofmillbrookny.com/climate-smart-millbrook/>.



COMMUNITY DAY

Community Day 2025 was a huge success and we had perfect weather. I can't remember seeing so many people in the Village and 99% of the feedback received has been positive. We will take back the 1% and try to be even better next year. There were so many helping hands this year, but I'd like to especially thank Community Day Chair Curtis Lewis from Curtis J. Lewis Fine Jewelry (shameless plug!), Elizabeth Logan-Baravalle as head of the MBA, Courtney Tsahalís as Director of the Millbrook Library, and Ashley Lempka and Michelle Del Valle from the MBA and the Rotary respectively. Thanks as well to Village Employees Ethan Kelly, Sarah Witt and Nicole Zeko. Thank you all!

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

As many of you know, we are in the early stages of a \$10 million dollar upgrade of our wastewater treatment plant. Part of the reason for this upgrade is that currently many of the treatment plant components are at the end of their useful life and our stormwater overflow system needs to be eliminated as it is not in compliance with current NYS DEC regulations. During dry weather, the plant

receives flow below the capacity of the treatment system. But during wet weather, the flow often exceeds the plant capacity, and we need our overflow retention system to help manage the flow.

What does this mean?

The amount of actual sewage being generated by all our homes is below the plant capacity but when it rains, this stormwater gets into the sewer system causing excess flow and creates problems. This stormwater is called Inflow and Infiltration, and is abbreviated I&I.

This has been a constant, decades-long problem here in the Village and we believe we have an idea how most of this stormwater may be getting into the sewer system, but we need your help to determine whether we are right.

The DEC is not imposing the requirement to reduce the excess flow to the WWTP arbitrarily. Their job is to protect and, in some cases, improve the quality of the water bodies that are receiving discharge from WWTPs (like the Wappingers Creek in our case). To do this, DEC requires all WWTPs to reduce the level of contaminants (like chlorine and ammonia) in the water that discharges from the plants. DEC also requires that the amount of oxygen in the discharge be increased for the health of the receiving waters.

How does this excess flow and these changes in contaminants and oxygen limits affect us?

When our WWTP was originally approved and constructed, it was not designed to meet the current contaminant limits and the required oxygen limit. The more flow that our WWTP receives, the more difficult it is for the plant to meet those limits.

So, how do we think most of the stormwater is getting into the sewer system?

- 1) Sump pump in your basements
- 2) Downspouts that may be connected to the sewer system

Why do we think this?

Our sewer operator VRI and various engineers over the years have been chasing the I&I problem for many decades. We have had our collection system televised and inspected for damage and deterioration every year since 2009. Subsequently, we have made necessary repairs to sewer mains and manholes as problems were found. The results have consistently produced modest reductions in I&I. Sump pump discharge to sewer systems has been a well-known issue throughout New York for many years and connection of sump

pumps to sewer systems is a violation of our state and our Village sewer ordinances.

A sump will generally discharge at a rate of 10 to 50 gpm. Using a conservative average of 20 gpm, one sump that runs for one minute every 5 minutes for half a day during a storm will result in about 3000 gallons of water discharging into the sewer in one day. This places SIGNIFICANT strain on our WWTP during wet weather events.

As a first step, if you do have a sump pump are on Village sewer, or don't know if you have one, please contact the Village Hall so we can make an appointment to come out and do an inspection. There will be no penalty for reaching out proactively, in fact, we will work with you on a solution.

Without your cooperation, this plan to reduce I&I will be much more difficult and much more expensive. If it turns out that we are correct in thinking that sump pumps are a major contribution to I&I, we will eventually determine where they are. It will just take a lot more work and money, and any homeowner with a home in which a sump pump is discovered would be issued a violation of the Village's sewer ordinance, would be subject to a fine, and would be mandated to disconnect at the homeowner's sole expense.

If we all work together to combat this problem, the better off our community will be, both fiscally and environmentally.

So again, please help us to help you.



SKIP CIFERRI AND PETER DEVERS ON THE STONEWORK OF MILLBROOK

Thursday, October 16 | 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Millbrook Library

Stones for fencing, stones for housing, and stones for worship will be the subjects presented by Skip Ciferri, whose family has

been in the construction business for four generations; by Dirk-Jan Rosse, tutored by the late James P. Ciferri, who has created many modern walls about our township; and by Peter Devers, who worked for Jim Ciferri one summer when in college. The Ciferri's, their workers, and assorted others are the Millbrook "Muratore", Italian for masons.

For more info: millbrookhistoricalsociety.org/events

