

Towns & Villages

MAY 2020

CONNECTICUT Canaan/Falls Village,
Cornwall, Kent,
Norfolk, North Canaan,
Salisbury, Sharon

NEW YORK Amenia,
Millbrook/Washington,
Millerton/North East,
Pine Plains



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Towns & Villages

May 21, 2020

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The World Has Changed Since We Started This Issue

BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Each year we do feature stories on the people who make our towns wonderful places to live in, and we feature them in this, our annual Towns & Villages special issue.

Last summer, long before anyone dreamed of a worldwide pandemic that would force the entire planet to go into a prolonged quarantine, we began work on this issue, dedicated to the volunteer gardeners in our area towns.

In August, we were discussing the enormous contribution that our community gardens make to the beauty of our towns. We decided at that time to feature in this issue the volunteers who lovingly tend those

gardens, often in all four seasons of the year.

Normally we put this issue together in April and May, when there isn't much gardening going on. So we decided to interview garden volunteers right then, in August, at the height of their work season.

We never dreamt that these stories would be quite so in need of explanation as they are, with a world that has changed dramatically since March and the COVID-19 crisis.

No one knows what the future will be like, even the near future. We predict our intrepid garden volunteers will simply strap on their face masks and go back out to weed and plant as

they've done for many years. Our cover photo is a wry commentary on gardening in the COVID era: Gail Tobin of Kent, who has been part of an army of volunteers making face masks, made an oversized model and wrapped it around her front yard planter.

Or perhaps this summer (and for many summers to come) the volunteers will set up individual work schedules and go out to weed and plant on their own. Gardening in silence can have its own pleasures.

This might be the reason why we are seeing so many Tri-state residents rushing out to start or expand their own backyard gardens this year. Vegetable seeds and starts in particular are in demand, partly because of fears that the food supply chain is in

danger.

One thing that's come out of the COVID-19 pandemic is an awareness that we are all better off if we have multiple sources for our food, and that local is better. Many readers have called and emailed to ask for suggestions of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms they can join this year. In CSAs, skilled farmers take care of growing your lettuce, tomatoes and more, with seeds that were purchased in the middle of winter, before COVID-19 made it harder for seed companies to prepare seed packets for home gardeners. Find a list of area CSA options in this issue.

And of course we have the listings that we always include in Towns & Villages, of essential town, state and federal services.

As you read this issue, we hope you will appreciate the hard work that goes into beautifying our towns. That work will continue this summer, somehow. And if you feel inspired to volunteer, please do contact those profiled in these stories. Now more than ever, we need to find beauty in the world around us.

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Cover photo of Gail Tobin's
face-masked spring planter,
by Lans Christensen



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Sanitarian (<i>Torrington Area Health District</i>)	
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OTHER SERVICES

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PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

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Housatonic Valley Regional High School, <i>Falls Village</i>	860-824-5123
Northwestern Connecticut Community College, <i>Winsted</i>	860-738-6300

Dignity and Joy Grow in a Village Garden

BY LEILA HAWKEN

The thing about community volunteer gardeners is that the very thought of the beauty they create and oversee causes them to smile. West Cornwall village is a case in point.

Bianka Langner Griggs, a familiar face for people who shop at the Wish House in West Cornwall village or who spend any time at all in the town, looks after her gift shop property as well as three large flower tubs, one by the railroad line and the two in front of the post office. She says she has been doing that for as long as she can remember, decades anyway.

Quick to credit others, she adds that the members of the West Cornwall Village Improvement Association do the same with gardens near their businesses or homes. Ian Ingersoll tends the spot near his shop adjacent to the Covered Bridge; he serves as president of the association.

It's a loose but effective organization, Griggs said. Barbara Farnsworth's window boxes were at risk of going untended after her death, but now volunteers are seeing to their maintenance. "We always want to give

people the freedom to do what they want," Griggs noted, appreciating the latitude offered by the association.

Griggs said the gardening tradition here dates to the time when West Cornwall was a busier town center. Gardens seem like a normal part of life to Griggs, who grew up in Berlin, Germany. Her neighborhood was created in the 1920s as a self-sufficient sustainable community. All families had a vegetable garden to raise their own food. Today, she said, many of the gardens there are gone, or reduced, or used for flowers instead.

"I think about West Cornwall gardening year-round," Griggs said. The association is responsible for the Christmas wreaths on the Covered Bridge; the town is a big help with hanging them.

Early on, volunteer gardeners tended to pay for their own plantings, but now thanks to association fundraising, some of the costs are reimbursed. Griggs is careful about what she buys, and from where. "My plants have to last for the season," she said, "and they have to



Photo by Leila Hawken

Flowers were tended daily throughout the 2019 growing season in West Cornwall village by Wish House proprietor Bianka Langner Griggs.

withstand the full sun."

In 2019, she selected catnip as a backdrop, and added echinacea and plants that added accents of yellow. "One should allow for weeds," she advised, calling them simply misplaced plantings.

She has also learned that a barrier of natural weeds and wildflowers can absorb and filter run-off before it reaches a stream. It is not always a good idea to clear vegetation all the way to a brook.

In just such a patch at home, Griggs said, forget-me-nots have sprung up on their own.

"Sometimes you just need

to let nature do its thing," she concluded.

Griggs said she was inspired by gardener and author Lynden B. Miller, who spoke at the 2018 Books and Blooms event at the Cornwall Library.

The conversation had to do with the capacity for public gardens to enhance community life. She said that Miller's words completely meshed with her own experience in the way that West Cornwall's attention to gardening beauty enhances the village's quality of life.

"People feel valued and elevated by plantings," she said. "It gives people dignity."

Oliver Wolcott Technical School, *Torrington*
..... 860-496-5300

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Beth El Synagogue, <i>Torrington</i>	860-482-8263
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St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church	
.....	860-672-6897
The Chapel of All Saints, <i>Episcopal</i>	
.....	www.allsaintscornwall.org
.....	for information on where services are held

United Church of Christ in Cornwall,
Congregational..... 860-672-6840
Trinity Episcopal Church, *Lime Rock*
..... 860-435-2627

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Litchfield Hills Probate District #24	www.litchfieldprobate.org
Registrars of Voters (Wed., 9-noon)	860-824-0707 ext. 18
Sanitarian (Tues., 8-10)	860-489-0436 ext. 323
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Town Clerk (Mon.-Wed., 9-3; Thurs., 9-noon)	860-824-0707 ext. 10
Town Garage	860-824-7239
Town Treasurer (Mon.-Wed., 9-3)	860-824-0707 ext. 11
Transfer Station (Tues., Fri. & Sat., 8-3)	860-824-5819
Recreation Director	860-733-2018

PUBLIC SAFETY

AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

For emergencies	911
Falls Village Fire Department	860-824-5298
State Police Troop B, North Canaan	860-626-1820
Sanitarian (Torrington Area Health District)	860-489-0436 or www.tahd.org
Sharon Hospital	860-364-4000

OTHER SERVICES

D.M. Hunt Memorial Library	860-824-7424
Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society	860-824-8226
www.fallsvillage-canaanhistoricalsociety.org	
Falls Village Day Care Center	860-824-0882

PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Explorations Charter School, Winsted	860-738-9070
Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Falls Village	860-824-5123
Lee H. Kellogg School	860-824-7791
Northwestern Connecticut Community College, Winsted	860-738-6300
Oliver Wolcott Technical School, Torrington	860-496-5300

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Beth El Synagogue, Torrington	860-482-8263
Falls Village Congregational Church	860-824-0194

Native Plantings that Enhance a Village Center

BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Rob Reimer isn't exactly a garden volunteer or a village beautification committee member. He's a respected professional gardener and is in fact one of the two main gardeners for design doyenne and Northwest Corner hero Bunny Williams. The other gardener at Williams' Falls Village estate is Reimer's wife, Tricia van Oers, who is in charge of the vegetable gardens.

It is Reimer who is in charge of the property's extensive flowers and other plants. When Williams opened her shop, 100 Main, in the center of Falls Village, she called on Reimer (who lives in West Cornwall) to beautify the formerly scrubby squares of dirt in front of the shop.

Reimer put in low-maintenance plantings that would mirror the beds outside Town Hall, which had recently been planted by garden book author and Falls Village resident Page Dickey; Deb Munson, who is a horticulturist and garden designer; and designer Vicki Cohen. Their garden was planted as part of the town's new Community & Economic Development initiatives to

support a Sustainable Falls Village.

Both sets of plantings, done in the summer of 2019, showcase native plants and pollinators. Reimer added some shrubs, he said, to give the garden outside 100 Main more height. Those shrubs include arbor vitae, a dwarf nine bark, and inkberry.

All of the plants he chose grow naturally in New England and many already grow, specifically, in Falls Village.

There's also some fothergilla and lots of grasses, which were still short and tufty when this interview was done in August 2019.

"The grasses are there not only to fill in space but also to give it a more natural look," Reimer said. "In nature, there's always some grass or sedge; you seldom just see a herbaceous layer without it."

One incentive for using native plants is that you don't have to fuss over them. Reimer didn't need to change or enrich the streetside soil that was in the garden squares outside the shop. These plants are hardy, he said, and they can take it. It's not like planting a vegetable garden, he said, where you want a nice

loose, rich soil.

Once these plants settle in and get comfortable, they shouldn't even need much watering. Native plants are tough. That's one reason to use them.

Another important reason is to help restore the landscape to the way it used to be and the way it wants to be.

Over the years, many gardens have been planted with non-native plants — many of which went wild and now dominate the roadsides and fields, forcing out native plants and allowing in predators such as the disease-spreading ticks. The aggressive multiflora rose and purple loosestrife are examples of ornamental plants that got out of control.

"Using native plants is the way gardening is going now," Reimer said. "We want to go back to nature; we're losing too many of our natural habitats."

Part of the plant circle of life is pollinators, and the plantings both in front of Town Hall and at 100 Main are designed to attract bees and butterflies.

In the Town Hall garden, Reimer said, there are butterfly weed, blue stem and beard tongue, "classic meadow plants. They can



Photo by Cynthia Hochswender

Gregorio Martinez added plantings in front of 100 Main in Falls Village last year, implementing a garden plan by Rob Reimer.

tolerate very dry conditions but look beautiful year round."

Inspired by these tips? These plants should be available from most local nurseries. And here's another tip: Buy the smaller "plugs," Reimer said, especially if you're able to plant them in spring.

It's less expensive that way; you can get six plugs and spread them out and let them grow in. If you buy the larger, more mature plant, it'll look better and bigger faster, but it will cost a lot more.

St. Joseph Church, Catholic, North Canaan	860-824-7078
Trinity Episcopal Church, Lime Rock	860-435-2627

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Building Department (Mon.-Fri., 9-4)	860-927-4556
First Selectman (Mon.-Fri., 9-noon & 1-4)	860-927-4627
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Town Clerk (Mon.-Thurs., 9-4, Fri., 9-noon)	860-927-3433
Transfer Station (Sat. & Sun., 8-3:30)	860-927-4627
Treasurer (Tues. & Wed., 1-4, Fri., 9-noon & 1-4)	860-927-0109

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State Police Troop L, Litchfield	800-953-9949
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Sharon Hospital	860-364-4000

OTHER SERVICES

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Kent Historical Society	860-927-3761
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Kent Memorial Library	860-927-3761

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Northwestern Connecticut Community College, Winsted	860-738-6300

Sharing the Caring for Community Gardens

BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

The charm and lure of the village of Kent is due in large part to the creative and diligent efforts of the Kent Garden Club.

Established in 1933, the club's president, Nancy Schaefer, estimates the membership at "plus or minus 42." Secretary Sue Lopardo adds that of that membership, "It's six to 10, sometimes 12, members" who do the majority of the gardening work.

There are several annual "work days" when they gather to do planting or seasonal changes, but other work such as weeding and watering is done by individuals, with a rotating

schedule.

"Gardening" hardly describes the variety of work performed by the club. The center of Kent and the focal point of their efforts is the Civil War Memorial at the intersection of routes 7 and 341.

Here the club provides a variety of seasonal and holiday decorations. For the summer season, Schaefer said they "concentrate on colorful foliage, not flowers."

Autumn brings pumpkins, always a fitting show as the annual Kent Pumpkin Run passes the monument on its way to the finish line.

Of course, the winter holiday season means



Photos by Lans Christensen

In a pre-COVID world, Kent Garden Club members were able to work together on planters in town, without gloves or masks. Work in 2020 is more likely to emphasize individual efforts.

redecorating with wreaths and lights. The colorful perennials around the Town Hall flagpole are another tribute to the club's talents.

There are more than 20 park benches scattered throughout Kent, providing resting spots for residents and visitors. The club keeps these in fine and inviting order and are a good example of the club's being "civic minded" — their goal is not just to beautify, but also to provide for the needs of the community.

Anyone coming into Kent passes one of the four "gateways": These are the handsome, hand-painted

welcome signs on routes 7 and 341. All are planted with fine evergreens and are maintained by the club as well.

Another club contribution is their help and support of the annual celebration of Arbor Day at Kent Center School.

Though they get no funding from the town, the club "gratefully accepts generous assistance from Kent Greenhouse and Gardens and some private donors as well."

Praise and thanks to the Kent Garden Club for providing these and other colorful and important contributions.



Oliver Wolcott Technical School, Torrington
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PRIVATE SCHOOLS

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Marvelwood School	860-927-0047
South Kent School	860-927-3539

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Sacred Heart Church, Catholic	860-927-3003

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Temple Shalom, New Milford
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First Selectman (Mon.-Thu., 9-4:30; Fri., 9-noon)	860-542-5829
Tax Collector (Mon., Wed. & Fri., 9-noon)	860-542-5140
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Transfer Station.....	860-542-5829
Zoning Officer (Mon., 9-noon, Tues., 9-noon & 1-4:30).....	860-542-6804

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For emergencies.....	911
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State Police Troop B, <i>North Canaan</i>	860-626-1820
Sanitarian (Torrington Area Health District)	860-489-0436 or www.tahd.org
Sharon Hospital.....	860-364-4000

OTHER SERVICES

Norfolk Historical Society	860-542-5761
.....	www.norfolkhistoricalsociety.org
Norfolk Senior Housing Corp. (<i>Meadowbrook</i>)	860-542-5470
Norfolk Land Trust.....	860-307-8380
Norfolk Library.....	860-542-5075

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Northwestern Regional School District 7 (<i>Grades 7-12</i>), <i>Winsted</i>	860-379-8525
Oliver Wolcott Technical School, <i>Torrington</i>	860-496-5300
Yale Summer School of Music and Art, <i>Norfolk Chamber Music Festival</i> <i>June - August</i>	860-542-3000
<i>September - May</i>	203-432-1966

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Beth El Synagogue, <i>Torrington</i>	860-482-8263
Church of Christ, Congregational	860-542-5721
Immaculate Conception, <i>Catholic</i>	860-542-5442

Beautification Group Keeps Norfolk Perennially Pretty

BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

It's not by accident that Norfolk is such a pretty little town. Its aesthetic beauty is the result of decades of work and planning by volunteers who faithfully maintain the village Green and surrounding areas under the guidance of the venerable Norfolk Community Association.

They pitch in with garden tools and backhoes. They come armed with trays of plants, watering cans and fertilizer. They dead-head flowers, trim bushes and, when the cold weather comes, help erect cut evergreens in planters along Main Street. Regardless of the project, the supply of elbow grease never runs dry.

Barry Webber and Doreen Kelly are co-presidents of the Norfolk Community Association, which was formed in 1895 as the Village Improvement Association.

"We are a small group of all volunteers, about 19 or so, and our mission is to serve as a beautification and restoration organization," said Webber, who has a background in interior and landscape design and serves as executive director of the Norfolk Historical Society.

The all-volunteer organization, said Kelly, is

funded largely by donations and some grants that help pay for annual projects throughout the seasons. Each spring, the organization sponsors a town-wide clean-up around Earth Day; the 2019 effort resulted in 100 bags filled with trash collected by volunteers.

Visitors and Norfolk residents also enjoy the profusion of colorful flowers in planters and urns and hanging baskets suspended from lamp posts around the town center.

"We try to buy flowers locally, and the businesses are responsible for the planting and installation," said Kelly.

The group's volunteers comprise full-time and part-time residents who pitch in when they can with the beautification projects. But because some of the volunteers are weekenders, and gardening tasks like watering and pruning need to be done frequently, "our new goal is to get more done by tasking some of the work" to outside vendors. "The timing aspect is so important, and a lot of people here are only up here part-time."

Other beautification projects include lighted Christmas trees set up around Main Street, which add cheer



Photo by Debra A. Aleksinas

Doreen Kelly and Barry Webber are co-presidents of the Norfolk Community Association, the town's beautification and restoration organization with roots dating back to 1895.

during the holidays; and the ongoing restoration of landmarks and monuments to preserve the town's past.

In spring 2019, in observance of Memorial Day, volunteers installed 51 large flags on the town Green to commemorate Norfolk soldiers who died in battle. The display of the 3-foot by 5-foot flags, said organizers, was purchased with funds from a \$3,000 grant through the Evan Hughes Trust, established "for the betterment of Norfolk," by the long-time resident who recently passed away.

"Everybody knew and loved him," said Webber.

Each spring and summer, this tiny community belies its reputation as the Icebox of Connecticut, particularly around the tropical-looking

courtyard at Station Place.

The crown jewel in Norfolk's summertime profusion of blooming color is the stunning black memorial fountain overflowing with vivid annuals, including flamboyant red cannas at its center ringed by a bed of petunias and assorted annuals in an explosion of vivid hues.

Nearby, a chubby mandevilla plant with soft pink trumpet flowers fills one of several planters in the courtyard, and around every corner hanging baskets overflow with eye-popping magenta petunias and other colorful annuals.

"We want people to know who the Community Association is, and what we do," in terms of beautification and preservation, said Webber.

ELECTED OFFICERS

First Selectman <i>Matthew T. Riiska</i>	860-542-5829
Representatives in Connecticut General Assembly <i>Sen. Kevin Witkos (8th District)</i>	800-842-1421
<i>Rep. Maria Horn (64th District)</i>	800-842-8267

Representative in Congress
Jahana Hayes (5th District)

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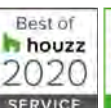
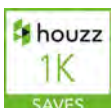
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Building Official.....	860-824-7313 ext. 191
Burning Official.....	860-307-3461
Fire Marshal.....	860-824-3132 ext. 193
Highway Dept.....	860-824-7313 ext. 117
North Canaan Housing Authority (Wangum Village).....	860-824-0521
Litchfield Hills Probate District #24	www.litchfieldprobate.org
Recreation Director.....	860-248-0970
Registrars of Voters.....	860-824-7313 ext. 111
Resident State Trooper	860-824-7313 ext. 112
First Selectman (Mon.-Thurs., 8-4)	860-824-7313 ext. 103
Social Services (Mon.-Wed., 9-noon & 1-4)	860-824-7313 ext. 110
Tax Collector (Tues. & Thurs., 9-noon & 1-3)	860-824-3134 ext. 109
Town Clerk (Mon.-Thurs., 8:30-noon and 1-3)	860-824-7313 ext. 106
Transfer Station.....	860-824-7313 ext. 118
Treasurer.....	860-824-7313 ext. 105
Zoning Enforcement Officer (Tues. & Wed. 10-2)	860-824-7313 ext. 192

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

For emergencies.....	911
Canaan Fire Company.....	860-824-7366
North Canaan Volunteer Ambulance Corps	860-824-7219
Resident State Trooper.....	860-824-3145
State Police Troop B, North Canaan	860-626-1820
Sanitarian (Torrington Area Health District)	860-489-0436 or www.tahtd.org
Sharon Hospital.....	860-364-4000

OTHER SERVICES

Canaan Child Care Center.....	860-824-0597
Douglas Library.....	860-824-7863
Canaan History Center	kathrynwboughton@gmail.com
Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry at Pilgrim House (Tues., 5-7; Thurs. noon-2).....	860-824-7232
Geer Village Senior Community	860-824-2600
Mountainside Treatment Center	860-824-1397
Northwestern Connecticut YMCA at Geer	860-824-2790

PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Explorations Charter School, Winsted	860-738-9070
Housatonic Valley Regional High School,	

When You Find a Bunny in Your Garden ...

BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Normally when you see a bunny in your garden it's a bad thing. But when that bunny is the indefatigable and super organized Bunny McGuire, you can feel confident that your garden will be better off after she's through with it.

Such is the case with one of the most visible gardens in the village of North Canaan, the one that runs alongside the railroad tracks on Railroad Street.

Bunny is captain of the town's Beautification Committee, which in 2019 was made up of Ruth Adote, Lynn Fowler, Pat Graf, Mary Kaufholz, Pauline Moore, Anne Rabeuf, Andrea Wagner and Susan Warner. There are also specialty gardens around town that are cared for by Warner, Deedee Gordon-Taylor, Dolores Perotti, True Anderson and Geoff and Daphne Drury.

It is Daphne Drury who is truly the mother of the village plantings that we see today, according to the Beautification Committee members. Drury is a botanist who was originally in charge of creating new

beds and eradicating many of the invasive species that were wrapping themselves around the "good" plants and strangling the life out of them.

"We took over from Daphne, and from True Anderson," Andrea Wagner explained on a work day in late August. "We're all home gardeners, but we all learned a lot from Daphne."

The work of pulling up and treating the invasives continues, always, everywhere and that is much of what the Beautification Committee members do when they meet once a week (usually Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m., for about two hours).

They also have to trim back some of the more enthusiastic "good" plants. Watch out for that variegated euonymus, it gets leggy real fast. The milkweed also can get a little pushy, and wants to take things over; that's generally OK, since those plants are there to attract and feed the monarch butterflies as they make their annual migration back to Mexico. But in a garden, there can



Photo by Cynthia Hochswender

The ladies at work: from left Bunny McGuire, Lynn Fowler, Andrea Wagner, Mary Kaufholz and Pat Graf.

always be too much of a good thing.

The North Canaan Beautification volunteers mostly work in spring and summer — from the time the peonies begin to open their puffy heads and bow down to meet the hungry ants that will help them bloom, until late summer, when the coneflowers turn their faces toward the sun and pull their petals back toward their stems, like guilty puppy dogs with their ears pinned back to their heads.

Most weeks, as is the case with all volunteer endeavors, there is a stalwart crew of about five women who do most of the weeding and

pulling. Sometimes a friend of the gardeners will drive by and drop off a bundle of perennials that has been divided out of their home garden. All the Beautification Committee members have notable home gardens; all of them know how to tell an undesirable from a desirable growth; but all of them turn to Bunny and ask first before they pull, cut or trim anything. Every team needs a captain. Bunny is that captain.

Each of the volunteers has a special thing that she likes to do best. And each of them has a tool that is her favorite.

Continued on page 14

Falls Village.....	860-824-5123
North Canaan Elementary School	860-824-5149
Northwestern Connecticut Community College, Winsted.....	860-738-6300
Oliver Wolcott Technical School, Torrington	860-496-5300

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Beth El Synagogue, Torrington.....	860-482-8263
Canaan United Methodist.....	860-824-5534
North Canaan Congregational.....	860-824-7232
Promised Land Baptist.....	860-824-5685

Seventh-day Adventist.....	860-824-5830
St. Joseph Church, Catholic	860-824-7078

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

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Charles P. Perotti.....	860-824-7313 ext.103
Representatives in Connecticut General Assembly	
Sen. Craig Miner (30th District)	800-842-1421
Rep. Maria Horn (64th District)	800-842-8267
Representative in Congress	

Jahana Hayes (5th District)	New Britain 860-223-8412
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Chris Murphy	Hartford 860-549-8463
	Washington 202-224-4041
Governor	
Ned Lamont	860-566-4840

KEY TOWN SERVICES

Animal Control Officer	860-248-5637
Assessor (Mon., Wed. & Fri., 9-4)	860-435-5176
Building Official (Mon.-Fri., 8-3)	860-435-5177
Fire Marshal	860-435-5196
First Selectman (Mon.-Fri., 8:30-4)	860-435-5170
Litchfield Hills Probate District #24	www.litchfieldprobate.org
Recreation Director	860-435-5186
Registrars of Voters (Wed., 9-noon)	860-435-5175
Senior Services (Mon.-Thurs., 9-11 at Town Grove)	860-435-5191
Social Services (Mon., Tues., Thurs, 9:30-4:30 p.m. and Wed., 9:30-3 p.m.)	860-435-5187
Tax Collector (Mon., Wed. & Fri., 9-4)	860-435-5189
Town Clerk (Mon.-Fri., 9-12:30, 1:30-3:30)	860-435-5182
Town Grove Recreation Building	860-435-5185
Transfer Station (Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. & Sat., 8-4; Sun., 9-1)	860-435-5178
Zoning Administrator (Mon.-Fri., 8-noon)	860-435-5190

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

For emergencies	911
Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance	860-435-0058
Lakeville Hose Co.	860-435-9981
Resident State Trooper	860-435-2938
State Police Troop B, North Canaan	860-626-1820
Sanitarian (Torrington Area Health District)	860-489-0436 or www.tahtd.org
Sharon Hospital	860-364-4000

OTHER SERVICES

Corner Food Pantry	860-435-9886
Housatonic Child Care Center	860-435-9694
Noble Horizons	860-435-9851
Salisbury Association	860-435-0566
Salisbury Family Services	860-435-5187
Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association	860-435-0816
Salisbury Historic District Commission	860-435-1276
Scoville Memorial Library	860-435-2838

PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Explorations Charter School, Winsted	860-738-9070
Housatonic Valley Regional High School Falls Village	860-824-5123
Northwestern Connecticut Community College, Winsted	860-738-6300

What Helps Most Is Support and Delight

BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

For the Lakeville Community Conservancy (LCC), the mission has been simple: To maintain the health and vitality and beauty of the village of Lakeville. Along with the combined efforts of community-minded townspeople and many local businesses, the mission has succeeded.

The Lakeville Community Conservancy was organized five years ago by concerned Lakeville residents and business owners who wanted to be proud of how the center of the village looked.

Susan Galluzzo, formerly co-owner with her husband, Tino, of the White Gallery in the center of Lakeville, was a prime mover in the plan.

The primary concern for the village was far from being cosmetic, she said. The expansive green spaces in the center of Lakeville could and should serve a higher purpose in the history of the village of Lakeville and the town of Salisbury's evolution.

They should look great, of course; but more important, they should give area residents and business

owners a sense of civic pride, and those spaces should be safe, clean and available for sitting, reading, picnics, activities for children and more.

"The idea is to use these spaces for public benefit," Galluzzo said. "We're not a garden group, although that's a noble mission, too. We are a civic organization, like the Salisbury Association, whose mission is to work independently of or in conjunction with town government and the schools and other civic organizations to maintain the health and vitality of the village of Lakeville.

"We want to improve Lakeville's public spaces and encourage their use by all age groups in town. We want to support local businesses, support property values and build civic pride and interest in the community at large."

It's ambitious but Galluzzo and the dedicated board of the LCC has organized major projects in some of the most visible and most visited areas of Lakeville (which is one of the five villages in Salisbury).



Photo by Cynthia Hochswender

Megan Conklin, Karen Faveau and Susan Galluzzo

For example, go to Factory Pond, which is actually adjacent to the dedicated public park, called Bauer Park, where there is now The Children's Garden.

Plants for this garden were selected by the LCC's well-known horticulturalist for their sensory appeal to children and adults.

The attractive public garden at the intersection of routes 41 and 44 is in another long-established park, Cannon Park, where a garden blooms through three seasons. Prior to the LCC's involvement, Galluzzo said, it was a patchy lawn space,

littered with garbage and overgrown with vines, hidden behind a hedge.

Community Field was next on the list of the LCC. The board felt this iconic outdoor space needed some attention. The group sought the approval of and collaboration with the Salisbury Recreation Commission. Funding the work, and with the help of the town crew, the LCC removed the decrepit chain link fence. It was ripped up and replaced with a new split rail fence. Weeds and overgrowth were removed. The electrical

Continued on page 14

Oliver Wolcott Technical School Torrington	860-496-5300
Salisbury Central School	860-435-9871

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Indian Mountain School, Lakeville	860-435-0871
Salisbury School	860-435-5700
The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville	860-435-2591

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

All Saints of America, Orthodox Christian	860-824-1340
-------------------------------------------	--------------

Congregational Church of Salisbury	860-435-2442
St. John's, Episcopal	860-435-9290
St. Mary's, Catholic	860-435-2659
Trinity Episcopal Church Lime Rock	860-435-2627
Lakeville United Methodist	860-435-9496

ELECTED OFFICERS

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Representatives in Connecticut General Assembly Sen. Craig Miner (30th District)	800-842-1421

Rep. Maria Horn (64th District)	800-842-8267
Representative in Congress Jahana Hayes (5th District)	New Britain 860-223-8412 Washington 202-225-4476
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 Building Inspector and Fire Marshal (Mon.-Fri., 7-noon; Sat., 8-9 a.m.)
 Inspector: Mon.-Fri., 8-9 a.m.)..... 860-364-0909
 First Selectman 860-364-5789
 Land Use Administrator (Mon.-Fri., 7-noon) 860-364-0909
 Litchfield Hills Probate District #24 www.litchfieldprobate.org
 Recreation Office 860-364-1400
 Registrars (Tues., 10-noon) 860-364-5514
 Social Services (Tues., Wed. & Thurs., 9-5) 860-364-1003
 Tax Collector (Mon., Wed. & Thurs., 9-3:30) 860-364-5402
 Town Clerk (Mon.-Thurs., 8:30-noon & 1-4, Fri., 8:30-noon) 860-364-5224
 Transfer Station (Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. & Sat., 8-4; Sun., 9-1) 860-435-5178

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

For emergencies..... 911
 Sharon Fire Department and Ambulance 860-364-5254
 State Police Troop B, North Canaan 860-626-1820
 Sanitarian (Torrington Area Health District) 860-489-0436 or www.tahtd.org
 Sharon Hospital 860-364-4000

OTHER SERVICES

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon..... 860-364-5041
 Sharon Day Care Center 860-364-5182
 Sharon Historical Society www.sharonhist.org; 860-364-5688

PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Explorations Charter School, Winsted 860-738-9070
 Housatonic Valley Regional High School Warren Turnpike, Falls Village 860-824-5123
 Northwestern Connecticut Community College, Winsted 860-738-6300
 Oliver Wolcott Technical School, Torrington 860-496-5300
 Sharon Center School 860-364-5153

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Christ Church Episcopal 860-364-5260
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The Two Volunteer Gardens of Sharon

BY LEILA HAWKEN

Without question, beauty runs in Sharon’s veins. Anywhere one looks will prove that.

Two spots where beauty springs up from the earth are two public volunteer garden projects, one provided by the Sharon Woman’s Club and the other by the Sharon Garden Club.

Both sprouted into being in 1983, about the time when the Town Beautification Project launched. Both gardens thrive today under the care of dedicated, generous volunteers.

“There is a good little team,” Roz Roney-Dougal said of the work of the Sharon Woman’s Club in maintaining the “traffic triangle” near the Clock Tower at the intersection of routes 41/44 and 4.

On a hot August morning in 2019 she and volunteer Eileen Tedesco came to the island to tend the patch, along with Sharon Womans Club President BZ Coords. Traffic was heavy but, thankfully, attentive.

“It’s at least a foot deep,” Roney-Dougal said of the soil at the site, “which is not very deep.”

She said that she never

needs to dig more than a foot down. In the spring, she adds peat and compost before planting. It’s a year ’round effort, she said, explaining that she designs the garden and orders the plants in January. Four considerations go into the design: heat tolerance, vehicle-exhaust effects, plant height for the traffic sightlines and, of course, the deer.

“It’s hard work,” said Roney-Dougal. But, “it’s such a nice setting and it gives so many people pleasure.”

Coords said that when they work “out here,” passing motorists comment on the spot. “We get a lot of ‘thank you’s,” she smiled.

To see the other perennial garden (tended by the Sharon Garden Club), go to the Good Neighbors Garden near the post office, tended for the past 19 years by Garden Club volunteer and Broadway actress Leigh Tunick.

Of great help each season, Tunick says, is Barbara Fairbanks, who tirelessly prepares the plot.

From the early efforts in 1983 when there were just pots of geraniums, the garden



Photo by Cynthia Hochswender

BZ Coords, left in photo, and Eileen Tedesco took a turn last summer at caring for the plants in the garden on Route 41/44.

has flourished and grown in importance on the spot, Tunick noted.

She said she visits the garden regularly to deadhead, water and weed. The watering function is assisted by a 100-foot hose that extends from a source in the basement of the nearby building.

“I’m very fond of Sharon and the Garden Club,” Tunick said. She divides her time between Sharon and New York. She sees her work with the garden and the club as a “social outlet” in a busy life shared with husband Jonathan. Both are recognized in the Broadway realm for their numerous accomplishments as Tony-

nominated and Tony-winning artists.

Inevitably, the conversation returned to a grounding in the perennial garden. Tunick said that visitors will have seen some recent major design revisions with the necessary removal of the overgrown junipers. The result would be a new design coming to life in spring 2020. Life goes on for gardens, despite the coronavirus.

The next time you visit the post office or stop at the intersection by the Clock Tower, notice the gardens as they wink at you. Maybe you can wink back. They are the product of the invisible green thumbs of the volunteers who bring them to you.

Sharon Congregational Church 860-364-5002
 Saint Bernard’s Roman Catholic Church 860-364-5244
 Sharon United Methodist Church 860-364-5634

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

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 Representatives in Connecticut General Assembly
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 Rep. Maria Horn (64th District) 800-842-8267

Representative in Congress
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Everyone has sharp shears (they sharpen their own tools, using a whet stone or a file). Bunny likes to use the loppers to take branches off bushes and trees that are getting out of control. She also likes to “edge,” as does Pat Graf; they use the edging tool to create a deep border between the mulch-covered garden and the encroaching grass (they recommend buying mulch by the truckload from Tallon Lumber on Route 7. “You have to be very careful your mulch isn’t contaminated by invasives,” Andrea warned.).

Pat also likes to “lop.” Andrea likes to use the small

garden fork, which is like a pitchfork that’s about 4 and a half feet tall.

“It loosens everything up,” she explained.

Everybody’s most favorite piece of equipment is the special bug spray that Selectman Craig Whiting ordered for them. It’s Sawyer Premium Insect Repellent with 20% picaridin.

Everyone on the Beautification Committee is friendly and has a good time.

“We pull and we chat and we clip,” Bunny said.

But they’d all like some more company, especially younger people. These ladies are all very vigorous but they won’t be able to continue

this fairly heavy outdoor work forever. Anyone who can’t make it to the weekly weeding and whacking sessions is asked to contact Bunny (who was officially named head of the committee by the town’s Economic Development Committee) at missbunny@snet.net.

And the committee members also wanted especially to thank the town crew for helping by picking up all the weeds and other debris left over after the weekly work details. As anyone knows who has ever gardened, getting rid of the weeds you’ve pulled up is almost as big a job as pulling them in the first place.



Photo by Cynthia Hochswender

Lynn Fowler and Andrea Wagner showed a bed of over enthusiastic plants who is the boss in a 2019 gardening session.

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infrastructure was completely updated. Dangerous hanging live wires were removed and a charming farm gate installed.

The Conservancy group also oversees the plantings at the Lakeville post office, where there are now boxwood, hydrangeas and other plants.

“We put wreaths up on the post office during the holiday season,” Galluzzo said. “For about \$125 it makes the building look and feel important.”

There are countless other projects, more than one could imagine would be possible in one small village. The work is done with the support of area businesses and nurseries; Noreen Briscoll’s Sweethaven Farm is hired to do upkeep on the gardens. It all costs money and it all takes someone

to oversee and organize it. That, more than just weeding and planting and trimming, is what the Lakeville Community Conservancy does.

Galluzzo is the Conservancy board’s president. Also on the board during the 2019 season were Margaret Monaco, Bill Littauer, Megan Conklin, Karen Faveau, Ellen Hubbard and Peggy Sands. There is a Community Field sub committee that in 2019 was made up of Tino Galluzzo, Ryan Diamond, Ron Becker and Kevin Cantele.

The involvement of anyone who is inspired is welcome to contact the LCC. Donations, which help the conservancy implement its plans, are always welcome and appreciated.

To learn more about the Lakeville Community Conservancy, or to make a donation, send a note to P.O. Box 1306, Lakeville, CT 06039; or send an email to lakevilleconservancy@gmail.com.



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 845-373-8118 ext.103
 Building Inspector..... 845-373-8118 ext.118
 Highway Superintendent (Mon.-Fri., 7-3:30)
 845-373-9922
 Parks and Recreation 845-373-8860
 Tax Collector (Mon.-Thurs., 9-1)
 845-373-8118 ext. 125
 Town Clerk (Mon.-Thurs., 9-3)
 845-373-8860 ext. 125
 Town Justices
Judge James Devine 845-373-8434
Judge Norman Moore 845-373-7017
Due to COVID-19, all litigants call 845-737-7017 with updated contact information so appearances may be rescheduled.
 Town Supervisor (Mon.-Thurs., 8-4)
 845-373-8118 ext.111
 Water District..... 845-789-1307

OTHER SERVICES

Amenia Free Library..... 845-373-8273
 Amenia Historical Society
 www.ameniahs.org
 Department of Motor Vehicles
Millbrook (Mon., Wed. & Fri., 9-4:45)
 845-677-4080
Pawling (Tues. & Thurs., 9-4:45) 845-855-4400
Poughkeepsie (Mon.-Fri., 9-4:45) 845-486-2130

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

For emergencies.....911
 Amenia Fire Company
 845-373-8467
 Amenia Constable 845-373-8434
 Dutchess County Sheriff..... 845-486-4300
 State Police
Dover 845-877-3031
 Wassaic Fire Company
 845-373-8807
 Hudson River Health Care, *Amenia*
 845-838-7038
 Sharon Hospital, *Sharon, Conn.*
 860-364-4000

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Columbia-Greene Community College
 518-828-4181
 Marist College..... 845-575-3000
 Dutchess Community College... 845-431-8000
 Webutuck Elementary School
 845-373-4100 ext. 1
 Eugene Brooks
 Intermediate..... 845-373-4100 ext. 2
 Webutuck High School... 845-373-4100 ext. 3
 Webutuck School District
 Administrative Offices 845-373-4100

Maintaining and Enhancing Amenia’s Public Spaces

BY KAITLIN LYLE

It’s thanks to the Amenia Enhancement Committee that the town’s two hamlets are looking spruce. Committee Chair Eric Eschbach and his uncle, Herb Eschbach, have been working for two decades to keep Wassaic and Amenia tidy and pedestrian-friendly. Herb Eschbach maintains the Veterans Memorial in Fountain Square. Along with making sure the flag there is maintained and appropriately positioned, he checks the flags around town, often purchasing new flags to replace the outdated ones at Beekman Park. He watches over the in-ground plantings and annual flowers at Fountain Square, ordering red, white and blue tulips for the spring. Every three days or so in summer, the committee members water and maintain the plants, sometimes working on some light weeding. When summer ends, Eric Eschbach helps remove the hydrangeas from the 10 concrete planters in the center of Amenia, bringing them indoors for the winter.

Working together with Vicki Doyle, the designated liaison between the Amenia Town Board and the Amenia Enhancement Committee, volunteers are recruited to take care of the plants and make sure they remain in good condition. One of the biggest days for recruiting volunteers is Earth Day, when town residents help clean up the litter around the hamlets. Another fertile time for recruitment is the weekend before Veterans Day, when autumn flowers are planted. The cycle begins again the week before Memorial Day, when spring annuals are planted around town and the hydrangeas are brought back outside. “We try to enlist the help of other organizations for the wider town-wide clean up,” Doyle said. “We did a good job this year in getting some hamlet cleaning done, trying to hit the ball fields as well as areas with high pedestrian traffic.” Along with the maintenance that the committee and its volunteers conduct on a regular basis,



Photo by Kaitlin Lyle

Amenia Enhancement Committee member Herb Eschbach took great pride in tending to the flowers planted at Fountain Square in Amenia.

Doyle said the committee has been working with the Amenia Garden Club on new projects to benefit the community. The Garden Club has also been taking care of the hamlet of Wassaic, keeping the garden at Borden Park maintained and the signs upgraded. While the Amenia Enhancement Committee is presently comprised

of a tight-knit group of seven active volunteers, the committee is always looking for more volunteers to lend a hand. Anyone who’s interested in helping out can get in touch with Eric Eschbach through Amenia Town Hall; they can also drop by Amenia Town Hall to pick up a volunteer application or find the application online at www.ameniany.gov.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Maplebrook School..... 845-373-8191
 Millbrook School..... 845-677-8261

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Congregation Beth David
 845-373-8264
 Immaculate Conception Church
 845-373-8193
 Smithfield Presbyterian Church
 www.thesmithfieldchurch.org; 845-373-8320

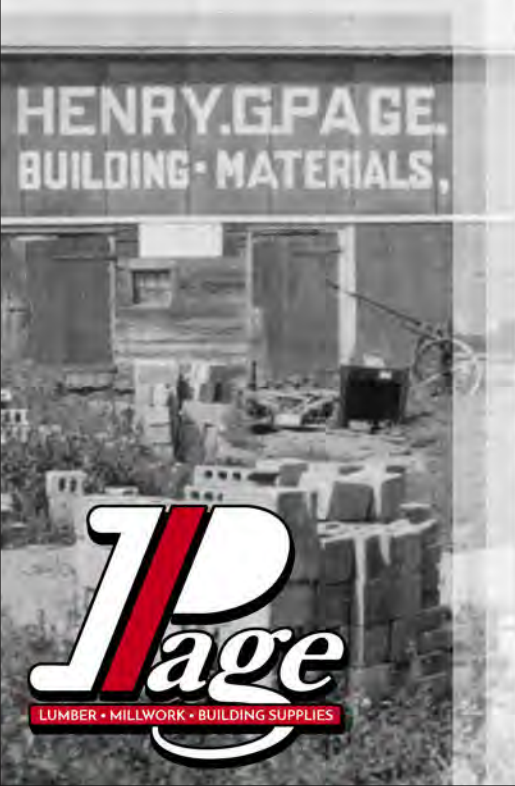
South Amenia Presbyterian Church
 845-373-9959
 St. Thomas Episcopal Church
 845-373-9161

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 County Legislator
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..... 845-677-3022
Village Clerk (Mon.-Fri., 9-3)

..... 845-677-3939
Mayor 845-677-3939

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

Animal Control 845-489-6148
Assessor's Office 845-677-3949

Building & Zoning (Mon.-Fri., 11-3)
..... 845-677-8321

Highway Garage (Mon.-Fri., 7:30 to 3:30)
..... 845-677-3910

Recreation 845-677-8278
Tax Collector (Mon.-Fri., 9-12:30, 1-3)

..... 845-677-3419
Town Clerk 845-677-3419

Town Justice 845-677-3419
Town Supervisor 845-677-3419

PUBLIC SAFETY

AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

For emergencies 911
Millbrook Firehouse 845-677-3871

Millbrook Police 845-677-8200
Dutchess County Sheriff 845-486-3800

State Police
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Hudson River Health Care, Amenia
..... 845-838-7038

Sharon Hospital, Sharon, Conn.
..... 860-364-4000

OTHER SERVICES

Millbrook Library 845-677-3611
Department of Motor Vehicles

Millbrook (Mon., Wed. & Fri., 9-4:45)
..... 845-677-4080

Pawling (Tues. & Thurs., 9-4:45) 845-855-4400
Poughkeepsie (Mon.-Fri., 9-4:45)

..... 845-486-2130
Millbrook Historical Society

..... www.millbrookhistoricalsociety.org

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Grace Episcopal Church 845-677-3064
Lyall Memorial Federated Church

..... 845-677-3485
St. Joseph's Church 845-677-3422

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Lithgow
..... 845-677-9286

Verbank Methodist Church 845-677-5534

PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Alden Place Elementary 845-677-4220
Columbia-Greene Community College

..... 518-828-4181

A Garden Club With a Century-long History

BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

In an area that is known for its pastoral beauty and jewel-like gardens, one effort stands out, and that is the Millbrook Garden Club's. Their beautification and conservation, and their history of preserving the beauty of Millbrook, have been noteworthy since their first flower show in 1914.

Since then, they have worked to help the community stay green. Recent projects have included the planting of 1,000 tulip bulbs in front of the Green Briar Adult Home, with bulbs donated by the Hudson Valley Garden Association and AKR Bulbs. Other plants and flowers were donated from private gardens (native plants are used whenever possible).

The Cardinal Hayes Home for Children has also benefitted from their generosity and expertise. They added and maintained more than 30 floral plantings around the campus. It was an educational experience, as some of the children were able to help them.

The Millbrook Early

Childhood Education Center received some help from the Millbrook Garden Club as well. A shade tree was recently planted in their play area when a large pine had to be taken down.

In 1919, garden club volunteers were instrumental in the planting of the Millbrook Tribute Garden. During times of war, they distributed seeds for Victory Gardens, as part of the town's contributions to war efforts.

In the 1930s a past president of the club, Mrs. Oakleigh Thorne, was instrumental in providing financial and organizational leadership to California's Save the Redwoods League. They dedicated the first grove of trees to her.

During the 1970s, the Garden Club worked with the utility company, getting wires and cables buried and planting the trees that grow along Franklin Avenue.

One of their finest efforts was begun 50 years ago, when they planted an herb garden at the Audubon Center in Sharon. For many years it was used not only



Photo by Judith O'Hara Balfe

The Millbrook Garden Club has a long and glorious history, dating back to the early 1900s. Work such as planting and maintaining the garden at the Cardinal Hayes Home for Children is done by volunteers.

for its scenic value, but for education as well. In 2003, they replanted the gardens with plant/flower species that attract birds, bees and butterflies, as a habitat for pollinators. The center also boasts a butterfly house.

The Millbrook Garden Club is a nonprofit, and is a member of the Garden Club of America. They have affiliations with the Cary Institute of Ecological Studies, Innisfree Gardens and Wethersfield Estate and Gardens in Millbrook.

The club maintains

archives of items deemed worthy of being documented and shared with garden enthusiasts and horticulturists.

They visit farmers markets and other local venues as part of their conservation program, advocating for fewer lawns and more native plants. They share information about the harmful effects of synthetic chemicals and pharmaceuticals in ground water.

Mostly, however, they add to the beauty of Millbrook.

Dutchess Community College 845-431-8000
Elm Drive Elementary 845-677-4225
Millbrook Middle School 845-677-4210
Millbrook High School 845-677-2510
Marist College 845-575-3000

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Dutchess Day School 845-677-5014
Millbrook School 845-677-8261

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Washington Town Supervisor
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Kieran Michael Lalor (105th District)
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Building Inspection Office (Tues., 2-7, Wed., 9-3, & Fri., 9-12:30, 1-3)	518-789-3300 ext. 606
Dog Control	518-789-4504
Highway Department	518-789-4850
Town Court (Mon.-Thurs., 9-2, & Fri., 9-noon)	518-789-3300 ext. 604
Planning Board (Mon.-Fri., 9-3)	518-789-3300 ext. 608
Supervisor	518-789-3300 ext. 608
Town Clerk (Mon.-Thurs., 9-12:30, 1-4, & Fri., 9-12:30)	518-789-3300 ext. 603
Zoning Board of Appeals (Mon.-Fri., 9-12:30)	518-789-3300 ext. 607

VILLAGE OF MILLERTON

Building Inspector and Zoning Enforcement Officer (Wed., 5-7)	518-789-4489
Village Clerk (Mon.-Thurs., 9-4, Fri., 9-noon)	518-789-4489
Village Mayor	518-789-4489
Water/Highway Department	518-789-4756

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY

For emergencies	911
Dutchess County Sheriff	518-789-3115
State Police Troop K	518-789-4411
Village Police	518-789-6355
Hudson River Health Care, <i>Amenia</i>	845-838-7038
Sharon Hospital, <i>Sharon, Conn.</i>	860-364-4000
Millerton Fire Co. & Rescue Squad Firehouse	518-789-4645

OTHER SERVICES

American Legion Post 178	518-789-4755
Department of Motor Vehicles Millbrook (Mon., Wed. & Fri., 9-4:45)	845-677-4080
Paulling (Tues. & Thurs., 9-4:45)	845-855-4400
Poughkeepsie (Mon.-Fri., 9-4:45)	845-486-2130
North East Historical Society	www.nemillertonlibrary.org/historical-society
NorthEast-Millerton Library	518-789-3340
North East Community Center	518-789-4259
Nutrition Site (Mon.-Thurs., 10-2)	518-789-3081

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Columbia-Greene Community College	518-828-4181
Marist College	845-575-3000
Dutchess Community College	845-431-8000

Investing in the Beauty of the Community

BY KAITLIN LYLE

From its early days of planting flowers on Main Street in 2008 to its current standing as a well-respected nonprofit, Townscape of Millerton & North East has truly distinguished itself through its efforts to keep the community beautiful throughout the seasons — thanks to its committee members, volunteers and also the broader community.

In addition to the plants surrounding the monuments in Veterans Park and the ones at the Irondale Schoolhouse in Millerton, Townscape was responsible for designing, donating, planting and maintaining the planters arranged on the bridge over Webatuck Creek.

“It doesn’t make sense to do the planting and not maintain them,” said Townscape President Jeanne Vanecko. “You have to take care of the things you install.”

The organization helped raise the funds needed to establish and maintain the planters behind the Oakhurst Diner. All of the trees on

Main Street were planted by Townscape over the years, as were many of the trees at Veterans Park and the rows of trees and bushes on John Street.

Vanecko said Townscape rallies volunteers to help plant flowers in Veterans Park each spring, usually the second week of May. The spring planting includes geraniums, petunias and patriotic red, white and blue flowers.

Throughout the summer, Townscape hires landscapers Jim and Tracy Lambertson to stop by the area every week to water and maintain the plants set up around the village. When winter comes, the Lambertsons assist Townscape with putting all the plants to bed for the end of the growing season.

The arrival of winter inspires some of Townscape’s best work as its members set up the holiday decorations and lights on Main Street. Vanecko said Townscape has a firm that helps set up the lights every year; the



Photo by Kaitlin Lyle

With buckets in hand, Jim and Tracy Lambertson from Jim & Tracy’s Garden tended to the flowers planted around Veterans Park in Millerton last year, from deadheading the flowers to weeding the gardens.

nonprofit also has donors who contribute by helping to set up and take down the seasonal lights.

Would it be possible to have professionals come in and do all the work for a fee? Of course. But Vanecko feels that, “It gives the community members a sense of ownership if they participate.”

“I always thought that people should invest themselves in their community somehow,” said

Townscape member Cathy Fenn. “Townscape has grown into a great not-for-profit organization because of the dedicated people who have participated. I think the fabric of our community has been made more valuable through our not-for-profit organizations and the people who give their time and energy.”

Volunteers interested in joining Townscape can email Vanecko at jvanecko@msn.com.

Eugene Brooks Intermediate	845-373-4100 ext. 2
Webutuck Elementary School	845-373-4100 ext. 1
Webutuck High School	845-373-4100 ext. 3
Webutuck School District Office	845-373-4100 ext. 5
PRIVATE SCHOOLS	
Maplebrook School	845-373-8191
Millbrook School	845-677-8261

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Congregation Beth David, <i>Amenia</i>	845-373-8264
----------------------------------------	--------------

Faith Bible Chapel	518-789-6073
Immaculate Conception, <i>Amenia</i>	845-373-8193
Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses	518-789-6214
Millerton Methodist Church	518-789-4926
North East Baptist Church	518-789-4840
Pine Plains United Methodist Church	518-398-5521
First Presbyterian Church	518-789-3431

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Christopher Kennan	518-789-3300 ext. 608

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State Assemblywoman	
Didi Barrett (106th District)	845-454-1703
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You Don't Have To Grow It Alone: Join a CSA!

Not everyone has a green thumb and not everyone wants to have one. There are also many gardeners who want to grow only a portion of the vegetables, fruit, meats and more that they'll eat.

Farm stands large and small help fill that need. Off the beaten path, try Weatogue Farm for vegetables, plants and lamb, at 78 Weatogue Road in Salisbury, Conn., 860-435-0345; Whippoorwill Farm for eggs and meat at 189 Salmon Kill Road in Lakeville, Conn., 860-435-2089; Wike Brothers for eggs and meat at 38 White Hollow Road, Sharon, Conn., 860-364-5765; Mountainview Farm for meat, eggs and vegetables at 309 Route 7 North in Falls Village, Conn., 860-491-0040; and Silamar on Route 22 in North East, N.Y., across from the Harney & Sons Tea factory.

If you're looking for more of a farming partnership, try one of the area's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms. Members join early in the season, invest in the start-up costs of farming and then reap the benefit through weekly "shares" of fresh produce. Some popular CSAs in the region are listed below.

—Cynthia Hochswender

ADAMAH FARM Falls Village, Conn.

CSA memberships are available at the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center in Falls Village, Conn., photo above. Janna Siller, in the photo top right, is the farm director and also a writer for *The Lakeville Journal* (that's her daughter in the second photo!). She oversees extensive offerings of vegetables and fruit that

ripen at different rates, so that from spring to autumn there is always a varied selection for each member's box. Get information at www.fvcsa.adamah.org or send an email to janna.siller@hazon.org.

CHASEHOLM FARM Pine Plains, N.Y.

Chaseholm is offering shares with Rock Steady Farm's CSA in Millerton (see below) as well as Great Song Farm in Red Hook, N.Y.

This third-generation farm is famous for the high quality of its cheeses and dairy products.

Chaseholm Farm also offers a buying club so that customers can pre-order and pick up from the farm store at 115 Chase Road, Pine Plains, N.Y. To sign up for the buying club, go to www.chaseholmfarm.com.

RIDGWAY FARM West Cornwall, Conn.

Ridgway Farm offers vegetables and maple syrup along with pork, beef, bedding plants and farm made products for pickup at the farm or at the Cornwall Market. The farm is located at 142 Town St., West Cornwall, Conn.; www.ridgwayfarm.com.

ROCK STEADY FARM North East (Millerton, N.Y.)

Rock Steady Farm offers 20 weeks of CSA shares. Pick ups are on the farm at Boston Corners on Saturdays, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. for 20 weeks or a 12-week summer share. Members can add on eggs, fruit, meat, yogurt and/or cheese from other local farms. 41 Kaye Road, North East, N.Y., near Boston Corners Road, www.rocksteadyfarm.com.



Photos by Cynthia Hochswender, Janna Siller and Elvia Gignoux



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Dog Control	518-398-7121
Highway Department (7-3:30 p.m.)	518-398-6662
After-hour emergencies	518-965-1876
Planning Department	518-398-7155 ext. 204
Recreation Director	518-567-7207
Supervisor	518-398-8600
Tax Collector	518-398-7155 ext. 211
Town Clerk (Mon.- Fri., 10-1)	518-398-7155
Town Justices (court clerk hours, Mon. & Wed., 10-2 and 3:30-6:30)	518-398-7194
Water Department	518-398-1411

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

For emergencies	911
Dutchess County Sheriff substation	518-398-5234
State Police	518-398-0317
Pine Plains Police	518-398-8601
Pine Plains Firehouse	518-398-1311
Hudson River Healthcare, <i>Amenia</i>	845-838-7038
Northern Dutchess Hospital, <i>Rhinebeck</i>	845-876-3001
Sharon Hospital, <i>Sharon, Conn.</i>	860-364-4000
VA Clinic, <i>Pine Plains</i>	518-398-9240

OTHER SERVICES

Department of Motor Vehicles <i>Millbrook (Mon., Wed., Fri., 9-4:45)</i>	845-677-4080
<i>Pawling (Tues. & Thurs., 9-4:45)</i>	845-855-4400
<i>Poughkeepsie (Mon.-Fri., 9-4:45)</i>	845-486-2130
The Little Nine Partners Historical Society www.lnphs.com; 914-474-1963	
Pine Plains Free Library	518-398-1927

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Cold Spring Early Learning Center (<i>Grades Pre-K-1</i>), <i>Stanfordville</i>	845-868-7451
Columbia-Greene Community College	518-828-4181
Dutchess Community College	845-431-8000
Marist College	845-575-3000
Pine Plains Central School District	518-398-7181
Seymour Smith Intermediate Learning Center	518-398-3000
Stissing Mountain Middle/High School	518-398-7181

Perennials and Pollinators in Pine Plains

BY WHITNEY JOSEPH

Picture perfect. That's how the town of Pine Plains looks, after members of its Garden Club have planted and weeded their way from the town gazebo to the town beach to Seymour Smith Intermediate Learning Center. All of them have gardens planted by and cared for by Garden Club volunteers.

"We beautify the town," said Garden Club President Vicky LoBrutto of her group's work. "We have our flower barrels around town, we have gardens, we make holiday sprays that are put in the library, Town Hall and the churches. We have a large garden at Seymour Smith, two gardens at Stissing Lake and we maintain the garden around the library.

"On Memorial Day, we provide the large flower sprays that go to the local cemeteries, and we have one in front of the town clock when the speech is given during the parade."

The Garden Club also distributes cookies to shut-ins at holiday time, bringing cheer to those who spend so much of their time indoors and alone.

Club members also participate in the FFA Fall

Ag Fair, hosting a flower show with floral arrangement judging and lots of flowers on display.

No matter what the activity, the 15 or so members of the club keep plenty busy. This past June they did a fairy garden workshop with children between the ages of 4 and 8.

In May 2019, the club held its annual, and much loved, plant sale at the town gazebo. Members sell plants and flowers cut from their own gardens, offering advice and expertise to those buying what is often colorful and fragrant stock. But in 2020, due to the coronavirus, the sale had to be canceled.

Still, the good feelings are shared by more than just those in the club, said its president. The positivity can be felt among all residents who are aware of the Garden Club's good work.

"I think it helps them realize that there are people who care for the town, care for the beauty of the town and want to keep it welcoming to the residents and to the people who pass by," said LoBrutto. "It creates a sense of community and pride that there are folks who care about the appearance of



Photo by Kaitlin Lyle

The Pine Plains Garden Club has a large memorial garden at Seymour Smith Intermediate Learning Center, in memory of a late and beloved teacher, Elizabeth Schroeder.

the town."

That beauty doesn't come without its share of work. Volunteers toil in the sun and in the rain to ensure the gardens flourish. They plant, they fertilize, they weed, they trim and they clip — all in the name of beauty.

They also educate. The garden at Seymour Smith is a memorial garden dedicated to the late teacher Elizabeth Schroeder, a great gardener, according to LoBrutto. Schroeder frequently did activities with her young students centered around butterflies. That was inspiration enough for the Garden Club.

"We always have plantings there that support the life cycle of Monarch butterflies,"

she said. "In the past, we've had elementary clubs help us plant in that garden."

Anyone who wants to help the Garden Club plant — in any of its gardens — is invited to join in the fun. As LoBrutto said, "we're always looking for more members." To join, email pineplainsgardenclub@gmail.com.

There is a \$10 membership fee. The rest of the club's expenses are paid for by revenues from fundraisers. All of the club's work is done solely by volunteers.

"It's great," said LoBrutto. "We are a close-knit group."

To learn more about the Pine Plains Garden Club, check out its Facebook Page.

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Church of the Regeneration, <i>Episcopal</i>	518-398-5628
First United Presbyterian Church of Pine Plains	518-398-7117
St. Anthony's Catholic Church	518-398-7115
Pine Plains United Methodist Church	518-398-5521

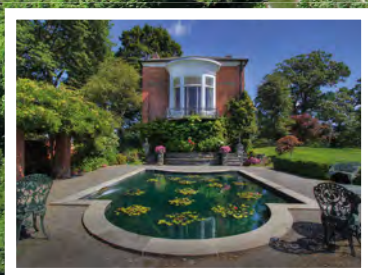
ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Supervisor <i>Darrah Cloud</i>	518-398-8600
County Legislator <i>A. Gregg Pulver (19th District)</i>	914-474-0908
State Assemblywoman <i>Didi Barrett (106th District)</i>	845-454-1703

State Senator <i>Sue Serino (41st District)</i>	845-229-0106
Representative in U.S. Congress <i>Antonio Delgado (19th District)</i>	202-225-5614
United States Senators <i>Kirsten Gillibrand</i>	202-224-4451
<i>Charles Schumer</i>	202-224-6542
Governor <i>Andrew M. Cuomo</i>	518-474-8390

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