



VILLAGE OF MILLBROOK

Mayer's Monthly

April 2025 | Volume 5 Issue 4

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



ARBOR DAY

Trustee Bucklin organized a fabulous Arbor Day ceremony for Elm Drive first graders, who were gifted a beautiful Sugar Maple and helped to plant it (and did an excellent job). Thank you, Trustee Bucklin, the Shade Tree

Commission, Elm Drive Principal Alicia O'Connell, and Dennis Gendron from Deep Roots Direct.

VILLAGE HALL RENTAL

As part of the budget process, the Trustees and I decided to open up the Village Hall Gymnasium for rental. There is a reduced rate for Village residents. **Applications** are available on the Village website and via [HeyGov](#). Please reach out to myself or the Clerks for more information, to book your next birthday party, class reunion, corporate event or sporting event (it's a great place for pickleball)!

Speaking of the Village Hall, for the first time in quite a while, the Village Hall was open to the public on April 12 for a fantastic puppet show put on by the Millbrook Library and Arm of the Sea Theater. We are looking forward to continued use of this great space.





On April 17th, the Village Hall was also the site of Dutchess County's inaugural **Honor-A-Veteran ceremony**, where the late 1st Lt. Andrew P. Doro, father of Mayor Peter Doro, was honored by County Executive Sue Serino. More information on the program, including applications, can be found here:

<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Veteran-Services/Dutchess-County-Honor-A-Veteran-Program.htm>

JAZZ

At the request of Millbrook Arts Group Board Member Bob Button, Mayor Doro was honored to issue a proclamation that honors Larry Ham (who performed at the Millbrook Library on April 26th) as "a world class performer, recording artist, and United States Department of State Jazz Ambassador, and proclaims April 2025 as Jazz Appreciation Month in the Village of Millbrook. Thank you Bob, the M.A.G. and the Millbrook Library for bringing such a musical treasure to the Village!



BUDGET

The Village Board unanimously passed the annual budget during the April 9th meeting and also passed a local law exceeding the NYS tax cap. This was a very tough year from a budget perspective, due to a number of unavoidable expense increases. However, what was originally projected to be an over 9% tax increase, was able to be reduced in the final hours by almost 3%. These actions reduced total expenses to \$2.533 million and increased other revenue to \$1.351 mm, resulting in a tax levy of \$1.182 mm, which is a 6.2% YTY increase.

Why did A-fund (General Fund) expenses increase year-to-year by \$293K?

+\$175K (+41% YTY) New NDP (Northern Dutchess Paramedic) ambulance contract, ensuring continuation of 24/7 paramedic coverage, albeit at a considerable expense, which is growing at an unsustainable rate for many communities in Dutchess County.

+\$25K (+26% YTY) Village employee medical insurance, another expense growing at an unsustainable rate

+\$36K Fire Department: turnout gear for new volunteers (a great “problem” to have, as Chief Boscardin had an excellent recruiting year, thank you Chief!), new Brush Skid Unit, RedNMX contract (this is an App the FD uses to respond to calls effectively and quickly)

+ Avg 2% increase on remaining items: \$57K

Regarding the water and sewer funds, we also increased certain usage fees, specifically:

1. While there is no increase in the water rate, the quarterly fee for each water meter increases from \$20 to \$25.
2. 15% increase in sewer rate to \$11.40/1000 gallons of water used.
3. 15% increase in sewer Special Benefit Assessment (SBA for village residents increases to \$70,150; SBA for non-village residents increases to \$11,500).
4. For the 3-year life of the \$60K bond (to cover the extra cost of replacing the South Millbrook pump station), an additional 87% increase in the SBA charge for sewer connections outside the village (\$11,500 increases to ~\$21,500). I believed this is only fair, as although not every Village sewer customer uses the South Millbrook pump station, almost every Town sewer customer *does* use it.

I am incredibly grateful to former Mayor Collopy, who was instrumental in leading the Board during this budget process, and for instilling fiscal restraint, as well as to Deputy Mayor Murphy and the entire Board for their invaluable contributions and suggestions, the Department Heads, the Clerks and our Treasurer. Thank you all!!