

Campaign begins with parade, entertainment

by Julie Gibbs

Halloween is coming to Millbrook in early this year. On Saturday Oct. 2, all are welcome to show up at Merritt Bookstore in Millbrook (Frost St. and Merritt Ave.) dressed as a favorite character, place or thing from a book. Costumed children and parents are welcome to participate in a march from Merritt Bookstore to the library where there will be a celebration and plenty of great activities. Costumes are only limited to the imagination. Marchers will follow the cheerful sounds of the Fusiles File and Drum Corps down

Franklin Avenue, which will be closed off to traffic, courtesy of the village.

Once everyone arrives at the library, Casey Carle's BubbleMania will entertain the crowds with visual comedy, quick wit, big band music, audience involvement and large quantities of spherical soapy liquids. This bubble artist creates intricate and imaginative 3-D sculptures like the bubble popcorn machine, the mesmerizing crystal ball, the bubble spaceship that actually spins and the jiggling bubble bot that is sure to split sides. Expect the extraordinary. Carle can wave

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giant 6-foot spheres, 25-foot long bubble tubes, bouncing bubbles, balanced columns of bubbles, and even a square bubble. His finale includes encasing an audience member or two in a colossal bubble.

Local girl scouts will provide face painting and the Millbrook Round Table and Millbrook Lions Club will supply free hot dogs.

To emphasize the library's historical role in Millbrook's development, there will be some interesting exhibitions.

A historic photography exhibit featuring the work of local turn-of-the-century photographer Sydney Smith Beahm will be on display. His beautiful black-and-white photographs capture the Village of Millbrook and the Town of Washington in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Beahm lived on Tower Hill Road and his relatives have revived his work which has been on exhibit for the past few months at the Clinton Corners Meeting House.

A small costume exhibit and antique trains will be set up inside the library to provide some perspective on the role of the library in Millbrook's history and

development. Village historian David Greenwood has pulled together several costumes that represent the type of clothing worn (mutton sleeves, bonnet hats, dropped shirtwaists and long skirts) at the turn of the century when the library was founded. Greenwood says this helps to put things in context "of how long the library has been around and how important it has been for generations in the village."

You'll also have a chance to check out a turn-of-the-century collector caboose. Maurice Neville will show several pieces from his antique train collection. Look for his circa 1880 caboose, in one-eighth scale of an actual train. It's about 30" long by 15.5" wide and 20" high. Neville is also bringing original railroad crossing signs from the early 1900s when the train chugged through Millbrook. He'll post a few maps created when railroads were in their prime in Dutchess County as well. Neville shows his collection every year at the train show at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center in Poughkeepsie.

Look for these other exciting library programs throughout

October:

Read-A-Thon

On Oct. 13, the library will host a Read-A-Thon. The day will be divided into several segments. The Read-A-Thon is a celebration of the written word and since it's happening in October, will focus on spooky tales of mystery and magic. Look for a more detailed schedule at the library in the next week.

Historic walk through Millbrook

Village Historian David Greenwood will lead a historic walking tour of the village on Oct. 15 at 10 a.m., departing from the Millbrook Free Library. Greenwood will tell anecdotal tales of families, history of buildings and the evolution of the village. He will answer questions along the way and looks forward to hearing historical tidbits from those who have personal accounts of the events of the village.

On Oct. 17 at 2 p.m., author Kurt Anderson will give a reading and discussion of his new book that is written just a bit into the future, a fictional turn of the 20th century novel.