

# The Lakeville Journal

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Covering The News In Connecticut's Northwest Corner And Its Environs Since 1897

## The Little Guild Animal Shelter nears completion ahead of May 9 open house

By Jennifer Almquist

CORNWALL — The Little Guild will celebrate the completion of its new 8,000-square-foot animal shelter at 285 Sharon-Goshen Turnpike in West Cornwall, with a public open house on Saturday, May 9, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The new purpose-built facility – designed by architects Silver, Petrucelli & Associates and built by Burlington Construction – replaces a house the organization used for 30 years that was not designed as an animal shelter.

The new building features quarantine areas, noise mitigation, dedicated adoption and socialization spaces, and a large multi-purpose community room for clinics, training, education, volunteer programs and community events.

Jenny Langendoerfer, Executive Director of The Little Guild, said the new facility will “have a profound impact in how we can care for animals and serve our community.” She said the design incorporates years of thoughtful planning and research, creating a calmer, more supportive environment that



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

A roadside view of the new 8,000-square-foot animal shelter in West Cornwall. A public open house is scheduled for Saturday, May 9, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

reduces stress, improve health outcomes, shortens stays and leads to more successful adoptions.

The project was funded entirely through private donations and community foundations, and the

building will be named in honor of Robert R. Rosenheim.

“We are honored to carry forward his legacy of love for animals,” Langendoerfer said, adding that “the Robert R. Rosenheim

Foundation has been our partner from day one.”

Little Guild Board President and Goshen resident Kelly Bozzuto

See LITTLE GUILD, Page A10

## New faces at Lakeville Journal and Millerton News

LAKEVILLE — LJMN Media, publisher of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News, announced a series of new hires and an internal staff change, including a newly created audience engagement editor position.

Madi Long, a native of North Canaan, joins LJMN in a newly created role of audience engagement editor, where she will focus on growing and engaging with local communities through social media and other platforms. A December 2025 graduate of The New School in New York City, Long earned a B.A. in screen studies with a minor in culture and media. She attended North Canaan Elementary School and Housatonic Valley Regional High School, where

See NEW FACES, Page A10



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MURRAY

Carlos and Yesica Gomez, with their son Xavier, stand outside Teo Tacos, which they hope to open by the end of the month.

## New Mexican restaurant Teo Tacos set to open in North Canaan

By Christian Murray

NORTH CANAAN — A new Mexican restaurant is set to open in North Canaan later this month, bringing a family-run dining option to Main Street.

Teo Tacos, owned by Carlos Gomez and his wife, Yesica Gomez,

is expected to open April 30 at 85 Main St., the former site of Berkshire Country Cafe near the train station. The restaurant will feature a menu of Mexican staples, including tacos, burritos, enchiladas, nachos and quesadillas, along with chips and salsa, and guacamole.

The space will seat about 40 people and will not serve alcohol.

See TEO TACOS, Page A10

## Super Bowl champ Malcolm Mitchell tells students how he learned to read

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE — Malcolm Mitchell was sitting pretty after Super Bowl LI on Feb. 5, 2017.

The wide receiver's New England Patriots defeated the Atlanta Falcons 34-28 in one of the biggest comebacks in Super Bowl history.

Mitchell was a big part of that, catching five passes from quarterback Tom Brady in the fourth quarter and converting four of them into first downs.

But Mitchell was battling a bad knee. He did not play at all in 2018 and retired the following year.

Off the field, he was dealing with something even more personal: he could only read at about a fourth-grade level. How he confronted and overcame that obstacle became the focus of his remarks to students at Indian Mountain School in Lakeville on Friday, April 17.

He told the students that he grew up in a poor, single-parent household in Valdosta, Georgia. Valdosta High School was named

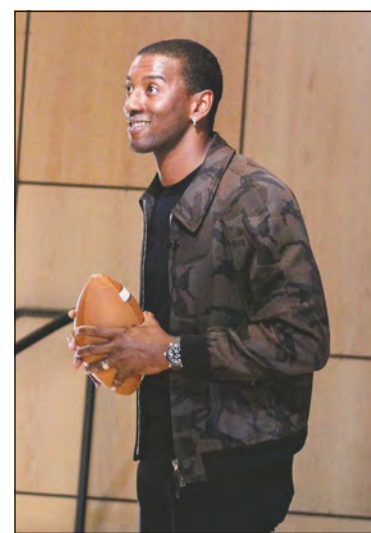


PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Malcolm Mitchell spoke about the importance of reading at IMS April 17.

as the community with the richest sports tradition by ESPN in 2008, and Mitchell played for the high school and for the University of Georgia.

But it was a difficult life. Hunger was a factor, he said. Mitchell

credited his mother for setting a strong, positive example.

“But love can't fix a runaway stomach,” Mitchell said.

The family relied on food stamps, and when the food started to run out toward the end of the month, Mitchell and a couple of friends worked out a scheme to steal chips, candy and sodas from a convenience store and make their escape along nearby railroad tracks.

He told the students that life presented him with choices, and he didn't always make good ones.

Neither did his friends. One of the boys involved in the convenience store caper is dead, Mitchell said, and the other is in prison.

By age 17, Mitchell said he began drawing interest from top college football programs, but was academically ineligible.

His 11th grade social studies teacher worked with him after school to get his grades up.

“She forced me to understand

See MITCHELL, Page A10



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# Regional

## In The Journal this week

REGIONAL.....A2	OUR TOWNS.....A7-8
OUR TOWNS.....A3-5	SPORTS.....A9
OBITUARIES...A5, A7, A10	COMPASS.....B1-5
OPINION.....A6	CALENDAR.....B4
VIEWPOINT.....A7	CLASSIFIEDS.....B5-6

### Online This Week

#### Teo Tacos set to open in North Canaan

A new Mexican restaurant is set to open in North Canaan later this month. More at lakevillejournal.com.

## POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

The following information was provided by the Connecticut State Police at Troop B. All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

### Pedestrian struck on Route 44

On the afternoon of April 13, Alexandra Weyerhaeuser, 29, of Lakeville was running on the shoulder of Millerlton Road near the intersection with Indian Mountain Road in Lakeville when a Ford 150 driven by Peter Tuthill, 47, also of Lakeville rounded a curve in the southbound lane. In the process, Tuthill's vehicle ran off the road, striking Weyerhaeuser and two mailboxes. Weyerhaeuser reported minor injuries and was transported to Sharon Hospital for evaluation. Tuthill was issued an infraction for failure to maintain lane and distracted driving.

### Covered bridge height bar dislodged

Just before 5 p.m. on April 17, Tremaine Pettway Jr., 25,

of Bridgeport tried to enter the West Cornwall Covered Bridge in a Hino L7 company truck. While advancing, the top of the truck made contact with the height bar, which fell from its support. Pettway turned around and detoured via Route 7. He was ultimately issued an infraction for failure to obey height requirements.

### Forgery, larceny arrest

At about 11:40 a.m. on April 19, Antonio Scott, 21, of Sharon was taken into custody on an outstanding warrant for two charges – first degree forgery and sixth degree larceny – relating to an incident on Nov. 25, 2025. He was processed and posted his \$10,000 cash bond. He is scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court on May 1.

The Lakeville Journal will publish the outcome of police charges. Send mail to P.O. Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039, Attn: Police Blotter, or email editor@lakevillejournal.com

# Harney examines tea's history, taxes and tariffs at Scoville Library

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Taxes and tariffs on tea were a political and economic issue in the period leading up to the American Revolution and, as one local tea expert noted, they still spark controversy today.

Mike Harney of Harney & Sons Fine Teas traced that history during a talk at the Scoville Memorial Library on Saturday, April 18, covering tea's origins, production and its role in shaping colonial resistance.

Harney started with the establishment of the British East India Company in 1600, when Queen Elizabeth I granted a group of London merchants and explorers a charter to open up trade with all countries east of the Cape of Good Hope at the southernmost part of Africa and west of the Straits of Magellan at the southernmost part of South America. This large area was known as the "East Indies" and the Spanish and Portuguese had established a significant trade presence there prior to British involvement.

"The Queen set it up to make money," Harney said.

Harney said there were two other reasons for importing tea and making it



Mike Harney of Harney & Sons Fine Teas speaks at the Scoville Memorial Library Saturday, April 18 about the beverage's importance throughout American history.

more widely available in Great Britain.

"People liked it, and it was better for people than gin."

The British colonists in North America brought their tea habit with them.

Harney said the French and Indian War, while militarily successful for the British, left them with significant war debt.

The East India Company had its own financial problems at the time as well.

So Parliament enacted a tax on tea, a move that backfired when it proved hugely unpopular with the American colonists.

Harney said he has recently traveled to Mozambique and Kenya in search of new teas, in part because of tariffs on Chinese goods. "So taxes were a problem then and now."

He said green tea is the easiest to produce and that



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Elyse Harney Morris provided tea samples at the Scoville Memorial Library Saturday, April 18.

the tea thrown into Boston Harbor during the Boston Tea Party in 1773 was almost certainly green tea from China. In response to a question, Harney said the British and Indian tea

trade didn't take off until the 1820s.

Following the talk, attendees gathered outside to sample a variety of teas, and receive a free tin of Harney's Library Blend.

# Salisbury home prices fall, with 12-month median at lowest level since 2022

By Christine Bates

SALISBURY — The 12-month trailing median price for a single-family home in Salisbury, excluding condos, was \$775,000 for the period ending March 31, 2026 — significantly lower than for the same period a year earlier.

The \$775,000 trailing median marks a 21% decline from the \$975,000 median recorded for the 12 months ending March 31, 2025, and a 14% drop from \$896,000 for the comparable period ending March 31, 2024. It was also the lowest 12-month rolling median recorded since October 2022, when it stood at \$688,500.

Single-family home sales in Salisbury remained within a typical range on a 12-month rolling basis. A total of 51 homes were sold in the 12 months ending March 31, 2026, compared with 48 sales in the prior year and 51 in the same period ending March 31, 2024.

Over the past three years, annual sales have generally ranged between 45 and 60 homes — although well below the more than 100 sales recorded during the peak market of 2021.

Inventory of listed homes increased slightly over the past 30 days. As of April 15, there were 19 single-family homes on the market. Of those, eight were listed above \$1 million, while six were priced at or below the current \$775,000 median.

Eight parcels of land — including two new listings — were also on the market, according to MLS data. Meanwhile, summer furnished rentals are beginning to hit the market, with seasonal asking prices ranging from \$6,000 to \$65,000. There were no unfurnished homes available for rent

### March transfers

8 Tokone Hills Road – 3 bedroom/3 bath house built in 1995 on 5.26 acres sold by



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Built in 1989 and spanning 3,775 square feet, 24 Ore Hill Road recently sold for \$885,000 — above the trailing 12-month median of \$775,000.

Candace Cuniberti Trustee, Kim Cuniberti Trustee, Francis B Cuniberti Family Trust to Bear Cliff LLC for \$1,464,100

Tokone Hills Road – 4.96 acres sold by Candace Cuniberti Trustee, Kim Cuniberti Trustee, Francis B Cuniberti Family Trust to Bear Cliff LLC for \$300,000

16 Sugar Hill Road – 4 bedroom/2 bath home built in 1812 sold by Jeremy Rob-in Dakin Estate to Lemon Properties LLC for \$300,000

11 Deerfield Road – 2 bedroom/2 bath home on 1.17 acres sold by Judith Ann Belile Trustee, Judith Ann Belile Trust to Kristen Beth Kucha Trustee Kristen Beth Kucha Revocable Trust for \$485,000

100 & 102 South Shore Road – 3 bedroom/4.5 bath lakefront home on 2.11 acres with guest house sold by Patrician Suarez to Sunset Holdings CT LLC for \$5,300,000

24 Ore Hill Road – 4 bed-

room/1.5 bath home sold by Laura Wright Estate to Samuel Lam for \$838,000

9 Overlook Drive – 4 bedroom/4.5 bath home on 5.7 acres sold by Andrew Zobler to Sarah Humphreys and Steven Benjamin Chesner for \$2,540,000

\* Town of Salisbury real estate transfers recorded between March 1, 2026, and March 31, 2026, provided by

Salisbury Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market listings from Smart MLS and market statistic from InfoSparks. Note that recorded transfers frequently lag sales by a number of days. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Bill Beebe helps clean up the traffic island at Railroad and Main streets Saturday, April 18 as part of a community Earth Day cleanup effort.

# Falls Village volunteers clean up for Earth Day

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Falls Village residents fanned out on the town's streets to clean up roadside garbage and clear out public garden spaces Saturday, April 18.

Sponsored by the Recreation Commission and the Village Gardeners, the event was designed to tie in with Earth Day, officially celebrated on Wednesday, April 22.

The garbage crew checked in at the Hunt Library starting at 10 a.m., where Recreation Commission chair Melissa Lopes was ready with garbage bags, gloves, sunscreen, safety vests and a clipboard listing town streets.

From 10 a.m. to about 10:30 a.m., four people

checked in, received the assignments and supplies, and took off.

While the four volunteers spread out to tackle roadside litter, another group got an earlier start focusing on the village's public planting areas.

The gardeners were also out in force in the downtown area, clearing out the traffic island at Railroad and Main Streets at 9:30 a.m.

First Selectman Dave Barger took Page Road. As he left, he said, "If I had a 10-cent deposit on every nip bottle I found, I could get rid of the national deficit!"

The library had an Earth Day craft activity for children, and at noon offered coffee and baked goods for the volunteers.

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• Ocean State Job Lot

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## Our Towns

# Sharon, Cornwall vote to join regional waste authority

By Christian Murray

Voters in Sharon and Cornwall unanimously approved ordinances last week to join the newly formed Northwest Resource Recovery Authority (NRRA), part of a growing regional effort to keep control of trash disposal in public hands.

The votes add the towns to a coalition that includes Salisbury, Goshen, Torrington and Norfolk. Together, they are working to take over operations of the Torrington transfer station — which is currently owned

and operated by the state — and maintain it as a publicly controlled facility rather than see it privatized.

The NRRA was established by the City of Torrington in 2025 after a proposed \$3.25 million sale of the transfer station to a private entity raised concerns among local officials about long-term costs and access. The state ultimately blocked the sale, preserving a public option while towns organize a regional authority to assume control of the site.

At issue is who determines the cost and handling

of municipal waste. Under the proposed authority, participating towns would collectively set tipping fees and policies. Officials say that model offers more stability than a private system, where pricing and access could shift based on market conditions and could lead to a monopoly.

In Sharon, First Selectman Casey Flanagan said joining the NRRA sends a signal to state lawmakers that local towns want the transfer station to remain publicly owned.

“Joining this authority

demonstrates to the state that we’re serious — that we want to invest our efforts into making this a viable public option,” Flanagan said.

Cornwall First Selectman Gordon Ridgway said the regional approach gives smaller towns a stronger voice in managing costs.

“We will be able to work with a municipal consortium, so we will hopefully get the lowest price possible,” Ridgway said. “We’re not in it to make money — we’re in it to manage costs.”

Ridgway added that a regional authority could also

position towns to expand recycling and waste-reduction programs.

“If you have a municipal consortium, you have a better chance of getting state grants and building recycling, composting and waste-reduction programs,” he said.

The NRRA remains in its early stages, and key details — including future fees — have not yet been finalized.

Residents in Falls Village and North Canaan are expected to vote next month on whether to join. Both towns’ first selectmen have

expressed support.

“It gives us an opportunity to stabilize tipping fees while maintaining local control,” said Falls Village First Selectman Dave Barger. “It also allows us to set our own recycling policies.”

Kent, meanwhile, will not be part of the NRRA. The town belongs to the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority, a separate regional system to the south of the Northwest Corner that officials say provides a model for how a multi-town, publicly controlled waste authority can operate.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Naturalist Margery Winters talks spring wildflowers at The Scoville Memorial Library on April 19.

## What wildflower enthusiasts can expect this spring, according to a naturalist

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Naturalist Margery Winters told a group of wildflower enthusiasts what they can expect in the weeks ahead during a discussion at the Scoville Memorial Library on a chilly afternoon, Sunday, April 19.

Winters, an instructor at the Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton, said that despite encountering hail and snow on the ride from her home in Simsbury to Salisbury, now is the time to take advantage of the brief period when the sun shines, temperatures rise and the trees have not yet leafed out — conditions that give way to spring’s earliest blooms.

The first wildflower of spring is the skunk cabbage, Winters said. This plant makes its own heat, even melting the snow around it.

“It’s true,” she continued. “It gets up to 62 degrees in there, like a little Club Med.”

The skunk cabbage attracts cadaver beetles and

flies, in part because of the chemicals it produces, and in part because “no self-respecting bee is out yet,” Winters joked.

The beetles and flies function as pollinators.

After the skunk cabbage blooms, Jack-in-the-Pulpit and the closely-related Jill-in-the-Pulpit bloom. These plants, Winters said, attract fungus gnats as pollinators.

Bloodroot is also on the early spring wildflower roster. Winters said the root is bright red, hence the name. Bloodroot can be used as a dye and is being investigated as a possible treatment for breast cancer.

Ants also figure into the spring wildflower scene. Winters said that once pollinated, many spring wildflowers produce a substance called elaiosome, which she called “a bribe to ants.”

The elaiosome is a “fat-py package” that covers the plant’s seeds. The ants carry the package back to their ant hills, which open into net-

works of tunnels that can go several feet down into the ground. The fatty material is scraped off the seed for the dining pleasure of the ants, who then oblige the plant by burying the seed for future reproduction.

With the blooming of the trout lily, also known as the dog-toothed violet, the most commonly known pollinator arrives — bees.

The miner bee only looks for pollen on specific plants, including the trout lily. Honeybees are generalists, Winters said, and bumblebees are specialists — better for pollinating for many native plants.

Winters stressed the importance of protecting native plants and pollinators.

“If you don’t have the plant, you lose the pollinator,” she said.

Winters wrapped up her remarks with a gentle admonition.

“Summer doesn’t last long. Soon enough, it will be fall. So get out and enjoy it.”

## Falls Village bridge could remain closed for years

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The bridge on Cobble Road over the Hollenbeck River is closed for an indefinite period.

First Selectman Dave Barger received a letter from the state Department of Transportation Wednesday, March 25 — one day after DOT personnel inspected the bridge.

“Based on the inspection findings, including section loss and bowing/bucking at several beam ends, the Department of Transportation is recommending the Town of Canaan close the bridge.”

The Cobble Road bridge is one of seven bridges in town in need of repair or replacement.

Barger said Saturday, April 18, that the bridge is eligible for full federal fund-

ing because the bridge is 120 feet long or more, which is the primary criterion for federal funding.

The other six bridges are well below the 120-foot mark in length.

Right now, the schedule has the bridge reopening in 2030, but Barger said that date might get moved up.

Signs and barricades were placed at both ends of the bridge on Monday, March 30.

The town is working with Cardinal Engineering on a plan for the other six bridges. That plan, which will include possible grant funds, will be

presented to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance in May.

Barger said the work is necessary.

“Like a lot of towns, our infrastructure needs attention,” he said.

The six bridges under review are: Undermountain Road over Ledgy Brook, Undermountain Road over Deming Brook, Barnes Road over Wangum Lake Brook, Canaan Mountain Road over Wangum Lake Brook, Canaan Mountain Road over unnamed stream, and Music Mountain Road over Flat Brook.

## North Canaan to honor veterans with ‘Hometown Heroes’ banner program

By Christian Murray

NORTH CANAAN — The town is launching a new initiative to recognize local veterans, with plans to install commemorative banners across North Canaan as early as this summer.

First Selectman Jesse Bunce announced the “Hometown Heroes” program during the Board of Selectmen meeting on April 14, outlining a community-driven effort to honor residents who have served in the military.

The program will allow families to sponsor banners featuring the names and photographs of veterans. The banners will be displayed on utility poles during the warmer months.

“I think it is going to be great for our downtown,” Bunce said. “They will be going up on the well-traveled roads in North Canaan.”

Bunce said the initiative will be funded entirely by participating families, not taxpayers, with the town coordinating logistics and working with local vendors to produce the banners.

He anticipates that more than 100 veterans could ultimately be represented, including honorees dating back

to the nation’s founding. He is encouraging residents to contact the Board of Selectmen’s office to submit names.

Town officials aim to have the banners installed by July 4 as part of the nation’s 250th anniversary. They plan to take them down during the winter months and reinstall them each summer.

The program is open to veterans of all branches of the United States Armed Forces, living or deceased, and is

intended to provide families with a visible way to recognize their loved ones’ service.

Bunce said the program is modeled after similar efforts in nearby towns, including Pine Plains in Dutchess County.

In addition to the banner program, North Canaan is also collecting names to be added to the Doughboy monument.

“These are projects we’re really proud of,” Bunce said.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Stanley J. Segalla of the U.S. Army is one of several local veterans to be honored in North Canaan’s “Hometown Heroes” banner program that will go up this summer.



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# At Sharon Historical Society talk, Edith Wharton's library comes to life

By Ruth Epstein

SHARON – The story of Edith Wharton's personal library is nearly as compelling as the plots of the books themselves.

Sheila Liming, an author and professor of literature and writing at Champlain College in Burlington, Vt., explored Wharton's relationship with books during a talk Saturday, April 18, at the Sharon Historical Society's annual meeting.

Liming said she became interested in Wharton while writing her doctoral thesis on "The Environment of Women Writers Engaged in Evolutionary Biology" at Carnegie Mellon University.

That research led her to spend five consecutive summers at Wharton's home, The Mount, in nearby Lenox, Mass., familiarizing herself with – and digitizing – the collection. While a majority of the collection had book plates, there is still a lot to learn, she said.

Liming divided Saturday's talk into two sections: one she called the value of books to Edith Wharton and the other, the value of Edith Wharton's books.

Born Edith Newbold Jones, Wharton, who lived from 1863 to 1937, was the author of such classics as "Ethan Frome" and "The Age of Innocence." She was the owner of 5,000 books upon her death, 2,700 of which survive today at The Mount.

Wharton delighted in describing the family library of her childhood. Her father, a book lover, was a member of the New York Society of Library, which invoked re-

strictions for women, such as prohibiting them from browsing or taking out books. When Wharton's father died, his books were left to her brothers.

"Books carried expectations of ownership," Liming said, "so she became compelled to do so. It translated into her lifelong ambition to own books."

Liming described Wharton's pursuit to collect literary works, saying the author would seek out a range of rare editions and other works. She enjoyed having many of them custom-bound using leather or silk, while others she left in less expensive forms.

Wharton had books stored in three of her houses: in Newport, R.I., in the Paris suburbs and in the south of France. When she died with no heirs, Wharton split her collection between two children: Colin Clark and William Royal Tyler, Jr. Liming surmised they were chosen because their fathers were prominent in the arts and would care for the books.

That wasn't the case.

Half of Wharton's collection was stored in a castle in England, where they were exposed to the elements, such as moisture and worms, and deteriorated. Some were damaged by fire.

The other set was placed in a warehouse in London owned by Clark. When he died, his brother wasn't interested in the collection and sold it for \$80,000 to a man named George Ramsden, whose only purpose for the purchase was to woo a girl, who, to his chagrin, married someone else.



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

**Sheila Liming gives a talk on 'Edith Wharton and the Value of Books' at Saturday's annual meeting of the Sharon Historical Society.**

Ramsden tried selling the collection to The Mount for \$3 million, but was rejected, since an appraisal at that time showed its worth at \$1.5 million. In 2006, negotiations were successful and the price received was around \$3 million.

"But Ramsden held back part of the library in the basement of his bookstore in England," said Liming. "He died a bit later and we don't know what happened to them."

Having the books at The Mount has been very successful, Liming said. It brings not just curious visitors, but many scholars. It's been said that the purchase of Wharton's collection is the most important the site has made. Visitors can view the collection, but there are also many stored in the attic not available to the general public.

Liming's time at the Mount proved to be very interesting. She talked about finding intriguing items in the books, including notes penned by Wharton herself.

"She would talk to her books, fight with them," Liming said.

While her collection was reported to be highbrow, she read everything. Liming smiled when she revealed Wharton was obsessed with the Lizzie Andrew Borden case – a Massachusetts woman charged with and acquitted of the axe murders of her father and stepmother – and read everything she could about it.

Liming holds a bachelor's degree from the College of Wooster and a Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University. She is the author of several books, including "What a Library Means to a Woman" and "Hanging Out."

## Falls Village launches online tool to monitor town plan progress

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Residents who want to see how the town is following through on its long-term plans now have a new way to keep track.

At the Board of Selectmen meeting on April 13, Planning and Zoning Commission member Doug Cohn introduced a new "POCD Workbook" available on the town website. The tool is posted on the Planning and Zoning Commission page under "Resources."

The workbook is designed to help residents and officials monitor progress on the town's Plan of Conservation and Development, or POCD — a document that outlines Falls Village's goals for growth, land use, conservation and infrastructure over the next decade, essentially a roadmap for how the town wants to develop.

The workbook takes the form of a spreadsheet that breaks down those goals and shows which town boards, commissions or organizations are responsible for carrying them out.

"It's a work in progress," Cohn said.

Connecticut requires

every municipality to adopt and update a POCD every 10 years. Towns that fail to keep their plans up to date may become ineligible for certain state grants — typically those over \$25,000 — unless the requirement is waived.

Falls Village adopted its current POCD in 2024.

First Selectman Dave Barger was not at the April 13 meeting. Selectman Judy Jacobs led the meeting in his absence.

In other business, Selectman Chris Kinsella said the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant committee is preparing a request for proposals to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for a trash compactor at the transfer station.

Jacobs reported that the state Department of Transportation is repainting lane markings on Route 63 between Goshen and its intersection with Route 7 in Falls Village through Sept. 15.

Kinsella also said the town's Infrastructure Committee met with Cardinal Engineering on April 15 to review grant applications for bridge repairs.

Send news tips to editor@lakevillejournal.com

## LEGAL NOTICES

### Legal Notice Town of Salisbury Board of Finance Notice of Public Hearing In-person Meeting Monday April 27, 2026, 7:30pm

A public hearing called by the Board of Finance will be held in-person at 7:30pm on Monday April 27, 2026 at Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Salisbury, CT 06068 with

the following agenda:

1. To receive public comment on the proposed Board of Education budget as presented.

2. To receive public comment on the proposed Board of Selectmen, town government budget as presented.

Note: Copies of the proposed budgets are available at Salisbury Town Clerks office.

Board of Finance meeting immediately following the Public Hearing

1. Final Budget Review; Discussion and possible vote to present the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen, Town Government Budget to the Annual Town Budget meeting, which will take place on Wednesday, May 13th, 2026 at 7:30pm

Kristine M. Simmons  
Town Clerk of Salisbury  
04-16-26  
04-23-26

### Legal Notice

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing on Special Permit Application #2026-0312 by owner Claudia Pacicco Remley for detached apartment on a single-

family residential lot at 80 Rocky Lane, Salisbury, Map 66, Lot 28 per Section 208 of the Salisbury Zoning Regulations. The hearing will be held on Monday, May 4, 2026 at 6:45 PM. There is no physical location for this meeting. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom where interested persons can listen to & speak on the matter. The application, agenda and meeting instructions will be listed at [www.salisburyct.us/agendas/](http://www.salisburyct.us/agendas/). The application materials will be listed at [www.salisburyct.us/planning-zoning-meeting-documents/](http://www.salisburyct.us/planning-zoning-meeting-documents/). Written comments may be submitted to the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, P.O. Box 548, Salisbury, CT or via email to [landuse@salisburyct.us](mailto:landuse@salisburyct.us). Paper copies of the agenda, meeting instructions, and application materials may be reviewed Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM at the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Salisbury CT.

Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission  
Robert Riva, Secretary  
04-23-26  
04-30-26

### Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on April 13, 2026:

- Application IWWC-

26-19 by Jessica Toro for cutting of scattered invasive plants in a seasonally wet area along Weatogue Road and painting stumps with wetland approved herbicide. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 25 lot 18 and is known as 273 Weatogue Road, Salisbury, CT. The owner of the property is Estelina L Dallett.

Any aggrieved person may appeal this decision to the Connecticut Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes §22a-43(a) & §8-8.

Town of Salisbury  
Inland Wetlands and  
Watercourses Commission  
Sally Spillane, Secretary  
04-23-26

### TAX COLLECTOR TOWN OF SALISBURY CT LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to Sec. 12-145 of the Connecticut State Statutes, the taxpayers of the Town of Salisbury are hereby notified that the fourth installment on the Grand List of October 1, 2024 is due and payable on April 1, 2026. Payments must be received or postmarked by May 1, 2026. If said Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are not paid on or before May 1, 2026, interest at the rate of one and one half percent (1 1/2% per year) will be added for each month or a fraction thereof which elapses from the time when such tax becomes due and payable until the same is paid. Minimum interest charge is \$2.00.

Pursuant to Section 12-173 of the Connecticut

State Statutes, unpaid Real Estate tax on the Grand List of October 1, 2024 will be LIENED on JUNE 3, 2026. Payment must be received by 12:00 p.m. on June 3, 2026 to avoid a Lien. Tax Office is open Monday, Wednesday 9am-4pm, Friday 9am-3pm. Closed 12:30 pm-1:30 pm.

Taxes can be paid by mail addressed to: Tax Collector, P.O. Box 338, 27 Main Street, Salisbury,

CT 06068. There is a drop box in the vestibule of the Town Hall which is available during normal Town Hall hours as well as a 24-hour drop slot at the rear of the building adjacent to the parking area. The Town is urging taxpayers to mail checks or use the option of paying by credit card or E-Check. Please see the Town website [salisburyct.us](http://salisburyct.us) for additional information. Dated at Town of Salisbury, CT this 6th day of March 2026.

Jean F. Bell, CCMC  
Tax Collector  
Salisbury CT 06068  
03-19-26  
04-02-26  
04-23-26

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF ERICA C. PRUD'HOMME Late of Cornwall (26-00125)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated March 24, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such

claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:  
Alexander Prud'homme  
c/o James J Flaherty  
Chipman, Mazzucco  
Emerson LLC, 900 Main  
Street South, Suite 102,  
Southbury, CT 06488  
Megan M. Foley  
Clerk  
04-23-26

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF LAWRENCE VINCENT POWER Late of Salisbury AKA Lawrence V. Power (26-00138)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated March 31, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:  
Lea Purdum Davies  
c/o Linda M Patz  
Drury, Patz & Citrin, LLP  
7 Church Street,  
P.O. Box 101  
Canaan, CT 06018  
Megan M. Foley  
Clerk  
04-23-26

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF HARRY P. FINDLAY Late of Salisbury (26-00103)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate

Court, by decree dated March 10, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:  
Louis Figliuzzi  
c/o Catherine Mary  
Brennan  
Catherine M Brennan  
Attorney at Law LLC  
34 E. Putnam Ave Ste 103  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
Megan M. Foley  
Clerk  
04-23-26

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF ANDREW J. PARISE Late of New York (26-00023)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated March 19, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:  
Deborah Parise  
c/o Tatiana Michelle  
Fonseca Dasilva, Cohen and  
Wolf, P.C.  
1115 Broad Street,  
Bridgeport, CT 06604  
Megan M. Foley  
Clerk  
04-23-26

# OBITUARIES

## Pieter A. Van Why

NORFOLK — Pieter A. Van Why of Norfolk, passed away in Greenfield, Massachusetts, on 11 April 2026, at 20:31:47<sup>1</sup> after a long illness.

Pete was born in April of 1943 to John B. Van Why and Priscilla M. Van Why, in Winthrop, Massachusetts, while his father was stationed on Long Island, in Boston Harbor, during WWII. The family later moved to Winsted, then finally to Norfolk.

Pete grew up during a time of strife in the country, sandwiched between WWII and the Vietnam war. In 1964, as the war raged and young men were being drafted to fight in jungles far from home, Pete had the wisdom to enlist in the Air Force instead of becoming cannon fodder in the army. He would end up working his way up to being Chief Master Sergeant, or an E9, the highest level an enlisted man could attain. Along the way, he garnered such commendations as the Presidential Unit Citation, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and many more. As was typical with Pete, he never once talked about these accomplishments. When I asked him about these, he told me, "I just did what I had to do." And he would continue to do just that.

After 21-1/2 years in the Air Force, Pete retired in Feb. of 1985 and moved back to Norfolk, where the family had settled in 1959. Pete choose to give himself a demarcation line between the military and civilian life by embarking on a 5-month long thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail. This initial thru-hike would be the start of a lifelong love affair with long distance hiking and the AT in particular. It was during this hike when he got his trail name of "The Cheshire Cat."

When Pete was forced by illness to give up hiking in 2020, he had logged over 18,000<sup>2</sup> miles. While many would consider that an incredible number of miles, he still mourned the fact he wasn't able to complete the Pacific Crest trail nor accrue the staggering amounts of miles many of the people he looked up to had done, some topping 45,000 miles.

We used to say we told him to go take a hike one day

and he left for five months.

Throughout his life, Pete would remain goal oriented. Upon his retirement from the Air Force and subsequent hike, he enrolled in college for a few years. He would accrue several degrees over those years of schooling, degrees that eventually landed him in his second career, this one with Sieman's Measurement Systems Business (later becoming Pratt & Whitney Measurement Systems) as a Senior Product Specialist. In this role, one he would hold for 25 years, he would travel the world calibrating high tech laser guided machines. Given his penchant for accuracy (we used to tell him, "Have a precise day!") this role was right in his wheelhouse.

There's so much more we could tell you about his accomplishments, such as pilot, flight instructor, world-wide travels, awards from the military and more, but that isn't talking about the man. And he was a man that a lot of people didn't understand at first.

His energy level was high, and his mind was keen and active, usually running several lengths ahead of whomever he may have been talking to. This at times led to him ending his side of the conversation first because his mind was already on to the next thing.

He never slowed down. But, in 2018 he would receive a diagnosis of Atypical Parkinson's, a condition caused by exposure to hazardous materials, something he was around for over 20 years while in the Air Force.

In 2020, as Covid 19 stilled the world, Pete retired from Pratt & Whitney and embarked on his next chapter. I would end up spending more time with him from 2020 to 2026 than I ever did in the previous decades. And as we worked together, I discovered the man that often moved so quickly most people never truly met him.

As I packed boxes, I found writings of his that were introspective and thoughtful. He had a skill with the written word that extended past his usual footnote laden Christmas letters.<sup>3</sup> And as I began to travel to Norfolk every weekend, I found he had slowed down to where he could and

would enjoy sitting and having coffee and conversations.

And during these conversations I found a man who had a quiet modesty about him, who was loyal to his friends and family, and who seemed genuinely surprised when I expressed thanks to him for all he had done for both the family and in service.

To Pete, his greatest achievement in life wasn't the accolades or the degrees – it was the hiking he had done and the friends he made along the way. Pete valued those friendships, those connections deeply. The first 1985 thru-hike (he would go on to complete the Appalachian Trail three more times, in section hikes) would leave a lasting impact on him.

He wrote about what was a pensive time for him as he hiked through 'the longest spring of my life.' As the miles passed beneath his feet he thought about what he had done and what he had to do next. This may have been the first time in his life where he had the ability to slow the world down and focus internally. This time spent on the AT would help shape the rest of his life.

In 2020, he left Norfolk, and eventually ended up in Greenfield, Massachusetts near the home of his sister and brother-in-law. The Parkinson's progressed in an inexorable march, eventually claiming him in the end. Much like his trail-namesake, the Cheshire Cat, he slowly faded away until only the grin was left. He retained his humor to the last, still managing to smile even as he drifted away.

I leave you with some quotes from Pete's work – he wrote a 17-page paper about the Appalachian Trail upon his retirement from hiking the AT in 2016, when the Parkinson's made it impossible to continue.

*A few summers ago, I'd just completed a 400-mile multi-trail hike at the Canadian border, northern terminus of Vermont's Long Trail. The next day – dreary and rainy – as I was road-walking through North Troy towards Newport for the bus ride home, I saw*

*an old woman in an adjacent house watching me pass. For the remainder of the day, I couldn't shake that image. I wondered if she had ever thought about going end-to-end on the Long Trail or thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail earlier in life and, if so, did she?<sup>4</sup>*



*Why do this? How to adequately convey a feeling with mere words? I'll make a feeble attempt. Perhaps there's too much materialism in our society and we occasionally need some decompression. What motivates apparently sane people to undertake such a journey? Certainly, couch potatoes need not apply. Make no mistake, it's work, hard work, but to many it's one of the most rewarding, even intoxicating, things we've ever done. But why? During the waning weeks of his life Paul Fink, the last living founder of the ATC, wrote from his convalescent hospital "I sit in this room with never a hope of getting out, with thoughts running through my mind of how delightful it would be to be lying by a trailside under a big balsam tree with no sounds unless it be the twittering of the birds and the rustle of the breeze in the tree branches above."*

Much like his closing quote, there's too much to convey about Pete with mere words. He was a kind man who loved animals, a highly intelligent and funny man, a loyal son, brother and friend to many. His passing will leave a hole in many lives.

It's a life well lived when people mourn your absence. Pete was predeceased by his parents John and Priscilla Van Why and his brother-in-law Jack Petersen. He is survived and dearly missed by sister Karen Petersen (Jack) of West Hartford, Connecticut, brother John Van Why (Denise) of Ravena, New York, sister Sue Anne Van Why of Winsted, and Sue's son Jesse Van Why of Connecticut. He is also survived by and deeply missed by sister Stephanie Funk and her husband Edward Funk, of Greenfield, who were hon-

ored to be able to be with him throughout the final years of his life. Those last few years spent in his company will be cherished memories forever.

We would like to thank the staff at Charlene Manor Extended Care for their kindness and love toward Pete as his last chapter played out. We appreciate it, and I know he did as well. We would also like to thank both Compassus Hospice and Pioneer Valley Hospice for the care they showed to him and us throughout these last four years.

There will be no calling hours or a formal funeral. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Pieter's honor be made to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Info can be found at Appalachiantrail.org. There will be a celebration of life to be held on August 22, 2026, at Norbrook Farm Brewery, 204

Stillman Hill Rd, Colebrook, CT from 1:00 p.m. until evening.<sup>5</sup>

Godspeed, Pete. May the trails always be smooth and the sun shine upon you forever. We love you.


<sup>1</sup>If you ever met Pete, you would completely understand why this was written this way.  
<sup>2</sup>The number of miles hiked is 18,715, not including ancillary mileage ~ Pieter A. Van Why / "Thru-hiking The Appalachian Trail" / v2016, /P1  
<sup>3</sup>We are going to miss those footnote laden Christmas letters.  
<sup>4</sup>Pieter A. Van Why / "Thru-Hiking The Appalachian Trail" / v2016/ P1  
<sup>5</sup>Because this wouldn't be a proper missive about Pete without footnotes. There will be light refreshments served, and of course plenty of beers to toast his memory with. They are a Harvest Host member for those who may want to camp.

## Celebration of Life

### Jill Scott

Please join us in celebrating the life of Jill Scott, Saturday May 2, at 2:00 p.m. in the Dining Room at Noble Horizons, Salisbury.

For more obituaries, see pages A7 and A10

 <b>Worship Services</b> Week of April 26, 2026	
<b>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon</b> 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org	<b>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.</b> 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442
<b>Trinity Episcopal Church</b> 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627	<b>St. John's Episcopal Church</b> 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org
<b>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC</b> Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7252 <b>FISHES &amp; LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH</b> is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org	<b>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH</b> Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville <b>MASS SCHEDULE</b> Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church <b>DAILY MASS SCHEDULE</b> Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078
<b>Congregation Beth David</b> A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia <b>SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM</b> Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) <b>ALL ARE WELCOME</b> Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-575-8264 info@congbethdavid.org	<b>UCC in CORNWALL</b> Cornwall Village Meeting House Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 www.uccincornwall.org Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community
<b>The Lakeville United Methodist Church</b> 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 lakevillemethodist@snet.net	<b>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall</b> Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall in person and on zoom Warm fellowship following service All Are Welcome! www.allsaintscornwall.org Rev. Mary Gates
<b>Falls Village Congregational Church</b> 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194	<b>St. Thomas Episcopal Church</b> 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY <b>SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE</b> Visit our website for links 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality
<b>The Sharon United Methodist Church</b> 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net	<b>Promised Land Baptist Church</b> 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 <b>VISITORS WELCOME!</b> www.promisedlandbaptist.org
<b>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church</b> 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thesmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building	<b>Canaan United Methodist Church</b> 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 8:00AM - Worship Service 2nd & 4th Sunday "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!
<b>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church</b> 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340   allsaintsofamerica.us	
<b>Sharon Congregational</b> 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org	

## George H. Wheeler

NORTH CANAAN — George H. Wheeler, a long-time educator and beloved member of the North Canaan community, passed away on April 18, 2026, age 80, from Parkinson's Disease.

George was born the son of Ralph and Alberta Wheeler, and grew up on the family dairy farm in Temple, New Hampshire, where the Wheeler family had worked the land for generations. That early life — rooted in the rhythms of agriculture, animals, and hard work — would quietly shape everything that followed. He graduated from Wilton High School in 1964, where he played on the state champion soccer team. After high school, he went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science from the University of New Hampshire in 1968, where he also participated in ROTC. He later earned two Master's degrees, in Education and in Animal Science, and in 1985 received a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies from Virginia Tech.

George began his teaching career in Weare, New Hampshire, before joining the Vocational Agriculture Department at Housatonic

Valley Regional High School (HVRHS) in Falls Village.

From 1970 until his retirement, George left an indelible mark on the school, its students, and the wider community he served with such steadfast dedication. He modernized and expanded the agricultural curriculum, championed the development of the Life Skills program, and introduced the Young Farmers program. He would serve as Chair of both the Vocational Agriculture Department and later as Practical Arts Chairman. He was President of the Faculty Association, and, later, a member of the Connecticut State Advisory Board of Agriculture Education.

Among his most cherished roles at Housatonic was his decades-long service as faculty advisor to the local FFA chapter — a commitment he approached not merely as a duty but as a calling. He gave freely of his time outside the classroom, making farm visits and supporting FFA activities. For many years he oversaw the chapter's beloved annual

Christmas Tree stand, a tradition that brought students and community together each holiday season. He was also the proud advisor to the state champion Parliamentary Procedure team, and played a pivotal role in the launch of the school's new vocational center.

Beyond the classroom, George was a pillar of North Canaan civic life. He served as President of the Exchange Club and as a member of the North Canaan Wetlands Commission. His personal passions were many: he was a skilled skier and longtime instructor at Butternut Basin in nearby Great Barrington, Massachusetts, an avid golfer, and a deeply loyal fan of the UConn Women's Basketball team.

But by any measure, the great love of George's life was Catherine Quinn Wheeler — his wife of 58 years and his high school sweetheart. Their life together, built on a foundation of shared history, mutual devotion, and a home filled with family, was



his greatest source of pride and joy.

George is survived by his beloved wife, Catherine, of North Canaan; his son Michael Wheeler and his wife Sheila, of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and their daughters Julia and Elizabeth; his son Kevin Wheeler and his wife Amy, of Barnard, Vermont, and their son Liam and daughter Hannah; and his sister, Alice Wheeler, and her husband Bob Thompson, of Milford, New Hampshire.

He was predeceased by his parents, Ralph and Alberta Wheeler; his brother David Wheeler, in 1963; and his sister Sarah Wheeler, in 1978. Calling hours will be held at Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home on Saturday, May 2, at 4–6 p.m. A celebration of George's life will be held at Housatonic Valley Regional High School on Sunday, May 3, at 2 p.m. and is open to the community.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in George's name to the Housatonic Valley Regional High School FFA Chapter, in care of Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home, on 118 Main St. Canaan, CT.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Confronting evil

War is never a good solution to international disputes, and casualties are always too many, but sometimes it cannot be avoided.

For 47 years, Iran has spread terror throughout the Middle East and beyond. Directly and through proxies like Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis, it has attacked neighbors, killed over 1000 American servicemen and civilians, and organized assassination plots against U.S. leaders. Iran also sponsored Hamas's October 7 massacre, in which 1,200 Israelis died and 250 were taken hostage.

Every American administration since 1979 has attempted to neutralize Iran's aggression. Every avenue has been explored: bribery, sanctions, and appeasement.

Iran responded by building offensive missiles, pursuing nuclear weapons, and funding and training terror proxies. When Iranian citizens peacefully protested their resulting economic and political conditions, they were tortured and executed. In recent months alone, the regime is estimated to have murdered between 10,000 and 30,000 of its own citizens, with more executions recently announced.

After reports indicated Iran possessed significant quantities of highly enriched uranium and was sprinting toward a bomb, the U.S. engaged in diplomacy (ultimately futile) before striking nuclear development centers. However, Iran restarted its program and increased missile production, prompting further attacks and counterattacks, including the Iranian closure of the Straits of Hormuz and a subsequent U.S. blockade of Iranian ports.

Iran's actions also triggered attacks from proxies like Hezbollah, which has effectively captured Lebanon. In violation of UN Resolution 1701, Hezbollah built terror infrastructure in Lebanon opposite Israel's northern border. Following October 7, they fired thousands of rockets into Israel from positions embedded within civilian areas, stashing weapons in homes and schools, deliberately putting civilians in harm's way. While Lebanon's elected government has recently struggled to disarm Hezbollah, it has failed to do so, and Israel has begun that task. Now Israeli and Lebanese officials are meeting to find a path toward achieving this goal together.

At its core, this conflict revolves around Iran's desire to dominate the region and hold the world hostage with nuclear weapons. While every recent U.S. president has stated that Iran must never obtain such weapons, no plan has yet successfully achieved that goal.

This conflict is the price the world is paying to finally confront the evil intentions of the current Iranian regime. It is not pretty, and it is not without civilian casualties, mistakes, or immense cost. However, it may be the last chance the world has to eradicate the threat posed by a regime that seeks only domination, death and destruction.

We pray for a quick and successful end to this conflict, and for the safety of the civilians caught in its wake.

Michael Auerbach  
Alan Friedman  
Nadav Goshen  
Lawrence Hutzler  
Thomas Morrison  
Lakeville

Happy Birthday, NDP!

Have you heard we are celebrating the 75th Annual National Day of Prayer May 7, 2026?! It's coinciding with America's 250th Anniversary, which leaders are calling a "providential" convergence. The 2026 Theme is "Glorify God among the Nations,

seeking Him in all generations" as our Founding Fathers did 250 years ago. Every U.S. President has signed a Proclamation for the National Day of Prayer which was amended in 1988 to be held annually on the First Thursday in May. This milestone event, established

by Congress in 1952, features thousands of local gatherings all across our Nation's fifty states.

Let's join together to celebrate this significant event with our very own Northwest Corner neighbors. I'm excited to see many friends turning out to hear generous town leaders read a prayer for their respective community roles and perhaps a few surprises! Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 7th at 6:00pm, Salisbury Town Hall, War Memorials. See you there!

Mary T. Davis  
Lakeville

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

View this week's full Turning Back the Pages at [www.lakevillejournal.com](http://www.lakevillejournal.com)

125 years ago — April 1901

Connecticut's onion crop is threatened. From time immemorial Southport boys have quit school when "setting out" time came, earning good wages on the onion farms till fall. "Where are all the boys?" Principal Tait asked on Monday. "Setting out sets,"

came a chorus of answers. Onion farmers promptly were notified by the indignant principal that school attendance was compulsory under the State law, onions or no onions. "What's this mean?" the wrathful onion growers asked

the School Board. "Don't mind him. He's only been here a year," said the School Board, who grow onions themselves. But Principal Tait is still determined to make the boys return to school.

Mrs. Julia Ayres, aged 87 years, died at her home early Saturday morning. Mrs. Ayres had been a resident of this place for many years. Her husband, Whiting L. Ayres, was one of the iron workers on Mt. Riga years ago. He, with two sons Daniel and Henry, and grandson Charles Ball, were in the civil war. The deceased was the head of five generations of whom the following survive: seven children, 21 grandchildren,

42 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren. The funeral was held at the Congregational Church Monday afternoon, Rev. J.C. Goddard officiating.

Ground has been purchased on Frink Hill, near Salisbury, and the buildings of a new school for boys will be put up at once. This school has been hitherto located at New Brighton, Staten Island, and is to move up here for next year. It will admit a younger class of boys than attend our school. It is understood that military discipline will be employed. The Head Master is Mr. Quaille, a graduate of Dublin University, Ireland.

A Methodist Episcopal Church and bank building will be built at once at Falls Village in place of those recently burned.

100 years ago — April 1926

Auto owners will do well to see that garages are well locked at night in view of the recent theft of cars and tires. A watchful eye and a double barreled shotgun might make things interesting for the miscreants.

These items were taken from The Lakeville Journal archives at Salisbury's Scoville Memorial Library, keeping the original wording intact as possible.



The views expressed here are not necessarily those of The Lakeville Journal and the Journal does not support or oppose candidates for public office.

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The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. each Monday. You may email letters to publisher@lakevillejournal.com.

A quiet moment with Secretariat, and a local Derby Day tradition

GUEST COMMENTARY  
DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

what he still was,\*\* felt unmistakable.

This was the thoroughbred who stunned the world at the 1973 Belmont Stakes, winning by 31 lengths in a performance that still borders on the unbelievable.

But that afternoon, greatness was quiet.

It stood in the barnyard. It breathed.

It watched. And it let us come close.

That memory returns to me every year around the Kentucky Derby, especially now, as the Northwest Corner prepares for its own celebration.

At the Salisbury Rotary Club's Kentucky Derby Social on May 2 at Noble Horizons, there will be no starting gate, no Churchill Downs stretch run. Instead, there will be neighbors gathered shoulder to shoulder, creative hats adorned with flowers and flair, a shared countdown to the horn, and the kind of collective anticipation that, for a moment, makes the room feel trackside.

As Rotary Club President Bill Pond has observed, you might think the crowd is actually at the Derby.

But what makes it matter isn't the imitation of the race. It's the purpose behind it.

In small towns like ours — from Salisbury to North Canaan, Sharon to Cornwall — tradition often takes on a different shape. We recreate big moments in ways that are closer, more personal, more rooted in community. The energy at Noble Horizons will not be about wagers or winners, but about something quieter and more enduring: neighbors supporting neighbors.

It is, as Pond describes it, a circle of generosity.

Proceeds from the event ripple outward to local food banks, scholarships, backpacks for students heading back to school, and organizations that quietly meet needs many never see. The celebration becomes something more than a party; it becomes a way of sustaining the fabric of the community.

And that is what brings me back, unexpectedly, to that afternoon at Claiborne Farm.

Because what stayed with me about Secretariat was not

just the magnitude of what he had done, but the quiet dignity that followed — the way greatness, once achieved, settles into something steady, something lasting.

Not loud. Not fleeting. But present.

In its own way, that same spirit carries through Derby Day here in the Northwest Corner — the excitement, the laughter, the hats, the shared moment when the race begins, and the quieter understanding that what we're really celebrating is connection.

A shared experience. A tradition that gives back.

Secretariat once ran a race the world has never forgotten. And a few years later, standing just a few feet away in that Kentucky barnyard, I learned something else about greatness:

Sometimes, it meets you in stillness.

And stays with you long after the race is over.

Debra Aleksinas is a freelance writer for The Lakeville Journal.

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# OBITUARIES

## William Taylor Mitchell

SALISBURY — William “Billy” Taylor Mitchell died on Feb. 21, 2026, following a four-month fight against complications caused by an automobile accident. Billy will always be a beloved and darling father and husband, and an honest and true friend to hundreds within a wide community he created and held onto in his lifetime. Billy is cherished for his values, devotion, curiosity in others, independent thinking, taste in music, and booming laugh.



on Aspetong Pond, he taught his children a love of skating. Billy could not be contained by four walls and a roof; he preferred the open air. He loved to row his Adirondack guide boat up and down the lower lake of Mt. Riga in Salisbury. If there was a breeze, he'd happily rig up the sunfish. He used to tinker with his bright red 1958 MGA convertible for hours just to take it for a spin. He dedicated every vacation and spare weekend to bringing his family skiing, camping, hiking, swimming, biking, and sharing his favorite places and pastimes with his family.

Together he and Cornelia threw countless parties—and pre-parties, and after parties, and impassioned New York Rangers watch parties. The doors of their home were always open to visitors. Any vehicle that ascended the gravel driveway—USPS drivers, old friends from out of town, or neighbors saying hi—could count on Billy bursting out the door to greet them.

Billy masterfully threw himself into the adventures and duties of Bedford Village Chowder & Marching Club, where he was a 21-year volunteer raising and allocating funds for local youth organizations. No project was beyond his ambition or beneath his humility. In remembrance of his decades of service, Chowder & Marching has established a scholarship in Billy's name which will be granted to a student at Fox Lane High School.

With a signature fondness and reliability, Billy served on the Board of the Pound Ridge Tennis Club, preparing and maintaining the integrity of the 7 har-tru tennis courts. Much of the club's bucolic grounds are thanks to Billy's care and love of the club. Billy and CJ enjoyed countless hours of tennis and platform tennis as partners, opponents, and with many dear friends.

In the months that followed the devastating car accident, Billy fought ferociously against his injuries. During that period he was surrounded by his beloved wife, children, siblings, and many devoted friends. We are all so grateful to the nurses, doctors, healthcare professionals, and hospital staff who aided him in his battle and held us in the hardest moments. Their consistent care and Billy's stubborn tenacity afforded us more precious time with him. All the love and joy that he put into the world came back around and he spent his final months immersed in it.

A celebration of life will be held at The Harvey School on the lower field beside Evarts Rink on Saturday, May 9th, 2026 at 2:00pm. All friends of Billy's are welcome; and anyone who had the pleasure of meeting him knew quickly that they were a friend.

Any donations can be made to the Bedford Village Chowder & Marching Club to support the Billy Mitchell Scholarship Fund.

Preceded in death by his parents, Sheila Wells, 1992 and Donald Mitchell, 1996, Billy is survived by his wife of 37 years, Cornelia Jane (née Reeder) and his three children, Haley, Cornelia (Nellie), and William Gilbert (Gib) Mitchell. The middle child between siblings Fritz and Elizabeth Mitchell, Billy has always been a devoted brother through weekly phone calls and visits to their homes in Vermont and Colorado. The entire family will profoundly miss Billy's indelible presence in every part of every day - his joie de vivre, his sense of humor, the twinkling of his eyes, and his genuine, joyous smile.

Billy was born on Dec. 22, 1960 in New York, New York. Every day thereafter was a symphony of phones ringing, skates scraping, ice cubes clinking, music playing, fires blazing, racquets swinging, and oars plunking.

Growing up in Bedford New York, Billy was curious and active. He attended The Harvey School in Katonah, New York from grades seven to nine. He played soccer, hockey, and lacrosse and was granted the Ballard Drama Award in 1976 for his role as Nick Bottom in William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream"—a designation he boasted about for decades. He joined the 1979 class of The Choate School in Wallingford, Connecticut, where he continued to excel in athletics. Billy earned a BS in Economics from Ohio Wesleyan in 1983. At each of these schools Billy was most known for the friends he made and held close for the rest of his life. He amassed a network that stretched far and yet never thinned; a quantity that never compromised quality. His impromptu catch-up phone calls will be missed by many.

In 1984, Billy started as a cold-caller at Smith Barney, which was later acquired by Morgan Stanley. Over his career, he advanced to be a Financial Advisor and Vice President. Throughout his tenure, Billy imbued his personality into his work. His dedication to his clients was steadfast and he counted many of them as close friends.

Billy returned to Bedford in 1992, to the house where he was raised, just beyond the treasured 500-year-old Bedford Oak, with his wife and growing family to call it home forever. He once again played hockey in the rink at The Harvey School, this time as a Bedford Bear. There, and

# VIEWPOINT

## The Bitter and the Sweet

We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard... John F. Kennedy 1962

Artemis II lifted off April 1, 2026, from a spectator-packed Kennedy Space Center with millions more Americans glued to any visual source with real-time coverage of the first moon travel since 1972 – a 50-year hiatus. Those watching felt the same excitement, comradery as was experienced with the rise of Neil Armstrong fulfilling Kennedy's challenge – walking on the moon within the decade. Hordes of watching children planned their Astronaut costumes for this fall's Halloween. American ingenuity, innovation, success made the nation beam with pride then and now.

The sweetness of being an American was intense – being connected with most all other Americans – moments of massive achievement and true accomplishment. National sweetness – collaborative pride. Here is a diverse set of highly skilled astronauts: two American men – one white, one black – an American white woman, and a Canadian white male. NASA sent a highly DEI crew on its supreme mission with historic success – to the moon and back. The

### OPEN SPACE KATHY HERALD-MARLOWE

crew was an exuberant team. Their public comments were heartfelt for their crew, for their nation, for their planet – summed up by astronaut Christina Koch “Earth you are a Crew!”

In Lake Placid, NY, 1980, an Olympics Miracle on Ice was brought home by 20 young American college hockey players defeating the highly professional, non-professional Soviets who had hither to owned the ice. Another prime instance of Americans – in unity – bolted to any communications device available to follow exquisite, fully-absorbing action. Anyone alive at the time can tell you where they were, what they were doing during this hockey match – regardless if they had ever before or since watched hockey. I was on a plane traveling from Houston to NYC, the Olympic commentators broadcasting on the plane's speaker, every passenger riveted as the US team, surprisingly leading 4-3, in the final seconds of the game shut the Soviets out of a tying goal. Then, the famed “Do you believe

in miracles? YES?”

American Sweetness – common pleasure – joint delight – extreme pride. We have in decades past enjoyed national delight – been bound by our sense of unity, our sense of being together joined for security, for extraordinary innovation, for massive wins, for marvelous accomplishment, for sweet celebration. We've not enough American sweetness in the past few years – rather trumped out with sharp, vigorous conflict, one side versus another, one party, one color despising another. Our previous sweet days/years were WOT – With Out Trump.

Currently a “non-war”, a major violent military clash with Iran has brought the nation stark, biting bitterness – the bitterness of soldiers killed, of costs in our nation skyrocketing, the President's blatant screaming of war crime rhetoric, the use of religion in reporting national endeavors, the blasphemy of Trump depicted as Christ posted online in our secular state, the US at war with its faithful allies of 70 years, the negative battle with the Pope over theological matters, Orban throw out with other Hungarian trash.

Bitterness, corruption of Trump & sons raking in billions from cryptocurrency, Middle Eastern real es-

tate deals all driving the net worth of their family from \$2.5 Billion in 2024 to \$10 Billion in 2026. Crime, corruption, lucrative deals with countries, billionaires, corporations are the trademark of Trump – a powerful force set to destroy a nation once lauded not for perfection of behavior but for leadership for liberty, for freedom. The United States, America, our nation unassailed as a pinnacle of performance, of altruism accompanied, of course, with righteous anger for loose bands of ugly Americans stuffed with greed and self-indulgence – taking and taking. The era since 2016 is WT – With Trump – he, Trump, an albatross of atrocities, promoter of hatred and division, role model of what-not-to-be, example supreme of who-to-scrub-his-mouth-out-with-soap.

Lincoln lead our nation, perhaps the most revered of our Presidents, warning the nation: “If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide”. We ought listen to Lincoln. We the People, owners of the Constitution, owners of our government must be authors of democracy and decency – all is in our hands.

Kathy Herald-Marlowe lives in Sharon.

## Board of Ed budget places undue burden on students and least affluent

According to the Town of Sharon Board of Finance, there's no justification to, as one member thundered at a recent meeting, raise the Sharon Center School budget “by so much as one dollar”.

Meanwhile, other schools in Region 1 proposed increases ranging from 2.69% to 6.41%. Annual inflation is up 2.5%, and Sharon's school labor costs, which make up four-fifths of the budget, are slated to go up 3%.

So why is the Board of Finance so obdurate? Is school spending wildly extravagant and out of control? Can the town not afford the school budget?

Here are some facts:

- Actual spending at SCS over the last eight years was virtually flat: up 01.5%, while inflation rose 32% and municipal spending jumped 36%.
- Sharon spends a lower proportion of its overall budget on education than any other town in Region 1 except Kent.
- Education spending per town resident is the lowest in Region 1.
- The State of Connecticut puts Town of Sharon wealth (figured by property tax and individual income) at sixth highest out of 169 school districts. (In Region 1, the next wealthiest is Salisbury, at #12.)
- Since 2017, Sharon town taxes (Mill rates) have been consistently among the three lowest in the state.

Clearly, the town can afford its public school. As for extravagance, you don't get savings amounting to a third of costs over an eight-year period without sustained, careful, thoughtful cuts in staffing, supplies, and in one instance, benefits. (The school is up to date on capital projects and major repairs.)

The uncompromising

### GUEST COMMENTARY ANNE VANCE

stance of the Board of Finance is due to one figure, and one figure only: per pupil cost, which is extraordinarily high. And the reason for this is that the student population has fallen sharply. Public school attendance in Connecticut is at a 20-year low, the US birthrate has dropped to record lows, and Sharon has been especially hard-hit by the loss of most of its middle class, traditionally a crucial support of public schools.

That drop meant that Sharon could and did make big cuts in education spending. But Sharon is a geographically large town with a large school building to maintain, and there's a limit to how much you can cut before you begin to hurt students' education. Sharon has reached that point.

This year, the Board of Education requested a 1.98% increase for the 2026-2027 budget, or \$82,000. The Board of Finance said no. The Board of Ed found another \$13,000 to take off the budget and asked the Board of Finance to consider, as an offset, the estimated \$40,000 in tuition to be paid into town coffers by out-of-district SCS students. This would have reduced the real cost to the town to \$29,000 out of its total budget of \$11.8 million. Instead, the Board of Finance opted to keep those tuition funds for town expenses, and again said no.

So on April 8th the Board of Education authorized closing the cafeteria kitchen. There are two other small schools in the region that have cafeterias without

kitchens, but this is an especially harmful option for Sharon students. The number of children who qualify for free or reduced-price school meals generally hovers around one third, sometimes rising to 40% or more; many buy breakfast as well as lunch. Now, instead of fresh, hot food prepared on site, lunch will be trucked in from the high school, two towns away. Shelf-stable breakfast items – think packaged muffins – will be delivered once a week.

And other options considered by the board were even more painful.

I believe that most Sharon residents are strong supporters of the public school. I think they would be in favor of raising spending the tiny amount needed to keep the cafeteria, or field trips, or mathematics coaching, or any of the other items that were chopping-block candidates. I also believe that the context and cause of the high per pupil cost, the ways it has been addressed, and the overall financial position of the town, are not well known and have not been an adequate part of the public discussion – which is why I

have written this piece.

In one respect, I have great sympathy for the current leadership of the town of Sharon and the difficult task they now face. Over the last decade and more, the town has built up a backlog of at least \$20 million in today's dollars in capital and maintenance projects, and the need to deal with this problem has become acute. I think these efforts, too, would benefit from better understanding and broader discussion – including how to keep that from ever happening again.

But when it comes to cutting the budget, education spending has done its part, and rising costs are one of the realities of life. When you're dealing with highly regulated education mandates, fixed building costs, a unionized workforce, and inflation, it is impossible for any budget to remain flat. Trying to do so puts an undue burden on the backs of school children – and on some of the least affluent people in town.

Anne Vance is a former member of the Sharon Board of Education. She was Vice Chair from 2023-2025.

## Realtor® at Large

With May on the horizon, boating season is approaching and it would be good to know the new regulations for owning and operating a boat in Connecticut. CTDEEP has issued this years CT Boaters Guide, which can be viewed at [portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Boating/Connecticut-Boaters-Guide](http://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Boating/Connecticut-Boaters-Guide). All the information can be found there on how to register your boat and where to take the required classes to get your operator's licence. In addition there is detailed info on the state's boat launches to access the various rivers, lakes and ponds throughout Connecticut. Finally, there is an update on aquatic invasive plants that are threatening our waters and how to purchase the requires AIS Stamp. See you out on the water!

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YOUR NEWS

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# Book talk brings true tale of tragedy and resilience in the Chinese diaspora to Hotchkiss Library

By Alec Linden

SHARON – Family histories are inherently complicated, but few more so than Ian Gill's. On the snowy afternoon of Sunday, April 19, the Manila, Philippines-based writer brought that dramatic lineage from — the subject of his 2024 book "Searching for Billie" — from the bygone days of early 20th century China into the warm interior of the Hotchkiss Library.

Over the course of an hour, Gill demonstrated to an eager audience of 20 that with a little digging — or rather several decades of it, in his case — the stories of our mothers, fathers and the ancestors before them can reveal startling truths about ourselves.

"You were two sons rolled into one," Gill told the audience his mother, the Billie of his book's title, had said to him long ago. "I didn't know what that meant, and it took me 40 years to figure that out," he recalled.

The story revolves primarily around Billie Newman, an orphaned child raised by a Chinese-born white British father and Chinese mother who showed up in a basket one day at the couple's doorstep. Billie went on to work for influential magazine T'ien Hsia Monthly, then as a wartime radio broadcaster, then for top government advisors, and ultimately ran the Secretariat of the United Nations Disarmament Conference until her retirement, for which she was awarded a Member of the British Empire award. This was all despite pressures from the



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Author Ian Gill speaks to a captivated crowd about a life filled with mystery, tragedy and resilience at the Hotchkiss Library, April 19.

Sino-Japanese War, family tragedy, single motherhood and racism, Gill emphasized.

But the history also carries with it Gill's own journey of self-discovery, which began with his first visit to Hong Kong with his mother in 1975, when he was a 29-year-old journalist based in New Zealand. That trip, he recalled during a cozy reception for the event hosted by his friend and Sharon local Bill Cowie Sunday evening, "lifted the curtain" not only on his mother's vast life story, but on the "vanished" China of yesteryear and, crucially, on himself.

"Her story is my story," he said, "including finding my father at the end — the other half of the genetic jigsaw."

The centerpiece of Gill's book, and of Sunday's pre-

sentation, is the tragic drowning of Billie's first son, Brian, and subsequent conception of Ian himself, all of which took place during four brutal years living in an internment camp while Hong Kong was occupied by the Japanese between 1941 and 1945.

Brian's father, an Irishman serving in the British Army, had since left the picture, and Billie spent her years on the internment camp as a single mother.

Gill told the audience that conditions were dismal, with up to 50 people sharing just a few rooms. "The worst thing though were the rations," he said. "Hunger was a constant problem."

After Brian's death, a "cynical journalist," per Gill's description, named George

Giffen comforted Billie, and eventually she became pregnant again. "Their relations had deepened," Gill put it wryly.

Gill recounted that his mother revealed an illuminating memory of the grief period to him when he was well into adulthood: "All I could think of was to replace my loss." Thus, Ian became the two sons rolled into one.

At the end of the war, Giffen returned to a previous marriage in Canada, and Gill would not see him until he was 40 years old, having tracked him down to a remote island in British Columbia. Despite the circumstances, Gill said he and his father grew close for the remainder of Giffen's life.

Back at Cowie's home high in the Sharon hills,

Gill said that he and his old university friend — the two had met in England over 60 years ago — only realized the previous evening that both had met their dads as adults. Cowie reunited with his father at 21 after not seeing him since early childhood. "Two boys, him and me, looking for our fathers" was how this story of faraway countries and timelines connects to Sharon, Gill said, since Cowie was the reason he had come to Sharon to tell his story.

Aside from his immediate family, Gill's research reveals fascinating tales from other pockets of his ancestry, such as his great-grandmother who hailed from a country parish in western England and eventually became a hotelier in a Chinese

resort town, and her son, Billie's adopted father, who developed postal routes in remote parts of China and broke social customs by marrying a Chinese woman. He eventually left her, and the family, for an affair with a Russian woman stuck in China following the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

The rest of the details are in the book, Gill said with a smile.

"Searching for Billie: A journalist's quest to understand his mother's past leads him to discover a vanished China," was published by Hong Kong English-language company Blacksmith Books and is distributed in the U.S. by Simon & Schuster. It's available for purchase online via Amazon and other retailers.

## North Canaan pursues grants to rebuild pool, upgrade athletic fields

By Christian Murray

NORTH CANAAN — Town officials are pursuing a number of grant applications, with a major focus on upgrading North Canaan's recreation facilities — including a revamped pool and improvements to athletic fields — alongside infrastructure and school projects.

During the April 14 Board of Selectmen meeting, First Selectman Jesse Bunce outlined more than \$14 million in grant requests currently under review.

At the center of those efforts is a \$2.4 million proposal to overhaul the town's recreation facilities. Backed by the offices of U.S. Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy, the request would fund a full rebuild of the town pool, along with renovations to the pool house. The proposal also calls for improvements to the town's athletic fields and tennis courts, which officials say require upgrades.

Bunce said Murphy's office contacted the town on April 14, indicating that while the full \$2.4 million request may not be funded, some level of funding is likely. "They told us, 'We're not sure we can come up with all the money, but we think we can get you some,'" Bunce said, calling it a positive sign.

"We're trying to go after as many grants as we can," Bunce added.

Beyond recreation, the town is pursuing several large-scale infrastructure



PHOTO BY MADI LONG

A summer moment at the North Canaan community pool, a spot officials hope to completely renovate with grant funding.

projects. Among them is an \$8 million federal grant focused on a townwide resilience effort, including drainage improvements and flood mitigation along Old Turnpike South and the Blackberry River corridor.

The town is also seeking \$1.5 million through the congressional appropriations process to replace the middle school roof. Bunce said the application has advanced beyond the initial stage and is now under consideration in Congress with support from U.S. Rep. Jahanna Hayes, D-Conn., whose 5th Congressional District includes North Canaan.

The town has also applied for a \$1.85 million grant through the state's Transpor-

tation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP), which helps smaller municipalities fund road and infrastructure projects.

The funds would be used for repaving roads and addressing drainage issues along West Main Street, Pease Street and Bragg Street near the elementary school.



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

## Kent Library expansion begins

By Ruth Epstein

Work has begun on the expansion and renovation project of the Kent Memorial Library.

A ceremonial groundbreaking will take place on Saturday, April 25, at noon at the site.

Following the ceremony, a reception with refreshments will be held at the library's temporary space at 10-12 Landmark Lane.

Register at [kmlinfo@biblio.org](mailto:kmlinfo@biblio.org).

Groundbreaking for the expansion and renovation of Kent Memorial Library is set for April 25, with a reception to follow at its temporary Landmark Lane location.



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## Our Towns

# Tennis, pickleball clinics are coming to Kent Commons Park

By Alec Linden

KENT – Kent will welcome a new racquet sports professional this spring with the debut of a tennis and pickleball clinic program, coordinated by the town's Parks and Recreation department.

Xavier Proulx, an established coach with an extensive resumé in racquet sports instruction, will be kicking off all-ages, all-skill level sessions in both tennis and pickleball starting Sunday, April 26 on the Kent Commons Park hard courts. The new program was formally authorized by Parks and Recreation during its April 7 meeting, where members voted unanimously for the four-week curriculum, which will run Sundays and Tuesdays through the third week of May, with rain dates scheduled for the following week if needed.

"We really wanted to

jump on the opportunity while the iron is hot," said Parks and Recreation Director Matt Frasher. He said that the townspeople have demonstrated extensive interest in pickleball, with a group of more than 90 players active in the pickleball TeamReach group, the application the department uses to coordinate and schedule events.

Frasher said tennis remains popular as well, and that the timing was right to bring in professional instruction for both sports. "We're excited to have him here in Kent and expand on what's being offered," he said.

Proulx, who is originally from Montreal and currently serves as the director of tennis for the city of Norwalk, said he is also looking forward to a change of scenery. "We all have our strengths as tennis director or head pro," he said. "For me, my strength

is on the court."

Proulx has served in several directorial roles, including 15 years as the director of racquet sports at the Rolling Hills Country Club in Wilton, Connecticut. His origin and passion, though, are in live coaching, having trained players young and old, novice and experienced across the globe, from France to Spain to the Isleworth Golf & Country Club in Orlando, Florida, where he was the head tennis professional for a star-studded clientele that included golfer Tiger Woods.

His playing career in tennis has also had its highlights, with a top 10 placement in the Canadian junior rankings when he was growing up, and even a number one ranking for the over-40 category in doubles in Florida when he was coaching in the state.

Despite the long commute from Norwalk, Proulx

said he's eager to get started, citing the quietude and natural beauty of the region as good incentive to make the hour-plus drive up Route 7 twice a week. Further, he was impressed by Kent's embrace of pickleball, a sport which he sees great value in as a coach.

"The main reason pickleball is sweeping the country is it has, literally, a 20-minute learning curve," Proulx said, meaning that beginners can be playing real matches their first time ever stepping foot on a court. "It's for any level, any age," he went on, noting that its accessibility doesn't mean younger athletes won't enjoy it any less. "It's incredible," he said in summation.

Prospective players can register at Kent's Parks and Recreation Department's online registration portal. For further questions or inquiries, email parksandrec@townofkent.gov.



PHOTO BY MADI LONG

Emergency crews direct traffic following a nearly nine-acre brush fire near Burr Pond in Torrington, April 14.

## Brush fire near Burr Pond State Park burns 9 acres, draws multi-agency response

By Aly Morrissey

TORRINGTON – A brush fire broke out near Burr Pond State Park Tuesday, April 14, burning an estimated 8 to 9 acres and prompting a large, multi-agency emergency response, officials said.

The blaze was first reported shortly before 1 p.m. after a Winchester resident called 911 upon seeing a bright, arc-like flash in the sky that resembled lightning, followed by rising smoke from the wooded area.

"The park is closed, with an 8-to-9 acre brush fire being fought by DEEP and local fire departments," said Bill Flood, a spokesperson with the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection. He did not say whether there were any injuries.

The fire prompted road closures and power was turned off in parts of the surrounding area, as utility crews and emergency personnel worked to contain the blaze. Burr Moun-

tain Road was closed to traffic, as it was serving as the primary access point for emergency vehicles.

The Winchester resident who reported the fire said he was at the Burr Pond boat launch when he noticed the flash.

"It's just luck that I saw a flash and happened to see smoke," he said, declining to give his name. "At first, I didn't believe what I saw. I was doubting myself."

He estimated the flash occurred about a mile away and said it looked like lightning but was silent.

"I just called it in and apparently it's bigger than they thought it was going to be," he said, adding that he did not lose power at his home.

Smoke from the fire could be smelled in areas adjacent to the park.

Officials had not yet determined the exact cause of the fire as of Tuesday afternoon.

Madi Long and Christian Murray contributed to this article.

## Kent Farmer's Market to move downtown

By Alec Linden

KENT – Farmers Market shoppers beware: when the beloved fixture of Kent's summer programming kicks back up on May 22, it won't be located on the familiar expanse of the Kent Land Trust Field. Instead, head straight to Main Street and park at your convenience, the Chamber of Commerce urges – and grab a coffee or check out some art while you're at it.

"You park once, and you do everything," said Chamber President Phil Fox as the rationale for moving the market, which has been a fair-weather fixture on the broad field south of town for four years. The new location is positioned around the Kent Welcome Center off of Railroad Street, and will take place on property spanning several businesses and town entities at the downtown location.

The main impetus for the change is connectivity between the market and the town's commercial district, Fox explained. "That's our goal, to bring people into town," he said. "The idea is to make it part of the buzz that is the center of town on a Friday night."

Other advantages of the new location include a power supply and public bathrooms, which will enable the addition of live music this summer, Fox added.

Local farmer Spencer Lord took over management duties of the Farmer's Market this spring, and he said that the response across the community to the change has been enthusiastic. "The vendors are excited, the town is excited, the businesses downtown are excited, the customers are excited," he said, "so it seems to be gaining momentum already."

Lord and his fiancé Rebecca Kuczko, both 41, run Oracle Mushroom Company, a farm in South Kent that has recently expanded beyond fungi to pasture-raised poultry as part of its business model. The couple has operated a stall at the Kent market for the previous two years, and Lord said he jumped at the opportunity when the management position opened up.

"We're very social with all the vendors that we work with at all the farmer's markets, and we really have tried



PHOTO PROVIDED

The new market location will take place in a shared property near the Kent Welcome Center.

to promote them as much as possible, even way before I ever stepped into this role," he said. "The better they do, the better we do."

Speaking on April 17, Lord said 35 vendors had been secured to show up this season – "and we're getting approached by new vendors probably every other day."

Lord said that the scope

of vendors will be hyper-local, drawing from under an hour's drive from downtown Kent. Some new vendors, like family winery Hopkins Vineyards, will add to a strong lineup of many returners, he reported.

Lord said he expects an average of 30-plus vendors active at the market per week, which he said the site can

## Kent budgets head to May 1 hearing with proposed 3.44% tax increase

By Alec Linden

After ordering last-minute cuts to both the municipal and education budget proposals during a special meeting on April 14, the Board of Finance voted to send both to a public hearing.

On May 1, residents will have the opportunity to weigh in on both fiscal year 2027 proposals, which together amount to a mill rate of 17.45, a 0.58 or 3.44% increase from last year. The mill rate is the amount of tax paid per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

To help balance the budget, the board also voted to use \$250,000 from the town's unassigned general fund — essentially savings not set aside for a specific purpose.

The Five Year Capital Plan, which was edited extensively during Tuesday's meeting, will also be subjected to public scrutiny at the May hearing.

Hopes were high at the meeting's outset to flatline the mill rate from last year, but Treasurer Barbara Herbst's announcement that that would require a nearly \$900,000 reduction caused the BOF to shift its approach.

Ultimately, the Board of Education was asked to pull \$30,000 from its bot-

tom line before the May 1 hearing. Currently, it sits at \$5,337,470, a 2.69% increase from fiscal year 2026. Along with \$2,808,970 allocated towards Kent's Region One contribution, total education expenditures, before the reduction, total \$8,146,440.

The municipal operating budget is proposed at \$5,277,965, a 5.08% increase over the current fiscal year.

The only line item changed by the BOF during Tuesday's meeting was to the town's contribution towards an aquatic invasive species management plan for Lake Waramaug. The funds are dedicated toward a proposed boat screening facility at the lake that would monitor for hydrilla, a particularly aggressive invasive waterweed.

Board members have previously questioned Kent's share of the cost, noting that only a small portion of the lake lies within the town. For instance, only three houses and the storefront state park are within town lines.

Originally planned as a 20-40-40 split of a \$100,000 project cost among Washington, Warren and Kent, First Selectman Eric Epstein said Tuesday that updated staffing estimates have reduced

Kent's share to \$13,000, plus \$3,000 in regular annual lake expenses.

BOF members were still unsatisfied with what member Casey Cogut described as a "half-baked plan" that is unfair to Kent taxpayers.

Ultimately, the Board voted to reduce the line to a total of \$7,500 from the \$16,000 previously allocated. Since \$3,000 are dedicated towards other costs related to the lake, only \$4,000 remain for the hydrilla prevention project. Washington has proposed \$26,000 towards the effort, which Warren is meant to match.

There may be fallout from the decision, Epstein said: "It's going to strain our relationship with the other two towns, I believe."

Most of the BOF's focus during Tuesday's meeting was directed towards the Five Year Capital Plan.

Portions of funds for several projects that were meant to become taxable this year were pushed back over the line. The Swift House, a long-unused town-owned historic building that has had capital suspended in limbo for years, saw its funding moved back a year due to no clear plan forward for

the building. A special town committee that was established in February to outline options for the building is expecting a report before the budget vote in May.

Capital intended to support the installation of amenities at Emery Park, including restrooms, was also

moved out of tax position on the plan. The park is planned for a major overhaul in the coming years, but several proposals for the site, such as the rehabilitation of the town swimming pond, have seen recent delays.

The hearing will be held at 6 p.m. on May 1 at Town Hall.

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**LITTLE GUILD**

Continued from Page A1



**Marley, age four, available for adoption through The Little Guild**



**Cookie, age 10, available for adoption through The Little Guild**

PHOTOS PROVIDED

said the new facility marks a major milestone for The Little Guild and those who believe in its mission.

"We are grateful for our dedicated staff, volunteers, and supporters whose efforts made this possible," Bozzuto said. "This facility will help us continue rescuing, healing, and finding loving homes for cats and dogs for generations to come."

Karen Doebelin, former Little Guild board president, who oversaw the capital campaign and construction of the new facility, added, "This building is the result of countless people giving generously of their time, talent, and resources. It feels terrific to know we'll be here helping animals for many years to come."

Richard Schlesinger, former CBS correspondent and Cornwall resident – and member of the Little Guild Advisory Council – said, "Every dog and cat that goes out this door to their forever home, has a life that is so much better than they could have imagined."

Salisbury resident Maria Horn, CT State Representative for the 64th assembly district, added, "As a family who has made rescue dogs a cherished part of our lives, I'm looking forward to seeing the new facility."

The Little Guild is dedicated to rescuing and nurturing homeless dogs and cats for adoption into safe and caring homes. Founded in 1960, the Little Guild is the largest animal shelter in Northwest Connecticut, with one of the highest save rates nationally for a no-kill shelter. They broke ground for this building in May 2024.

For more information, visit [littleguild.org](http://littleguild.org).

**OBITUARY**

**Nora Eileen Grey**

SALISBURY — Nora "Eileen" Grey, 91, passed away peacefully on April 9, 2026, at Noble Horizons in Salisbury.



Born in Ireland on Aug. 15, 1934, in a farmhouse in Tourmakeady, County Mayo, 16-year-old Eileen Keane bravely moved to the United States in the early 1950s, according to daughter Bernadette Grey of Sharon. She settled into a Brooklyn brownstone with her aunt, uncle, and 7 boisterous cousins, all of whom treated her like another one of the brood.

Nora married in her 20s, raising her family in Queens and then Suffolk County. She got her driver's license in her mid-30s and blossomed in a later-in-life career as a teacher's aide for intellectually disabled students at West Suffolk BOCES.

A beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and aunt, Nora is survived by her daughters, Bernadette (Bob Schwartz) of Sharon, and Barbara Grey of Carmel, New York; her granddaughter, Lili Gehorsam (Adnan Husain) of Seattle; and her grandson, Luke Gehorsam (Becca Endicott) of Chatham, New York. She was also the cherished "GiGi" to her great-grandchildren, Susannah and Raphael, the lights of her life.

Nora was predeceased by her son, Brian, as well as all of her siblings, sisters Bridget, Peggy, Kathleen, Sr. Mary

Agatha, Nancy, and brothers, Michael and Patrick. Nora enjoyed many trips "home" to Ireland over the years to visit her siblings, nieces, and nephews. Many of them made the journey to visit her in the States as well.

Nora spent her final four years living at the Payn Home, a not-for-profit independent retirement residence in Chatham, NY. She thrived in the warm, social, family-like atmosphere, especially enjoying the proximity to Luke, Becca, and her great-grandchildren.

A Carrom player, Nora spent countless hours at the board with her best friend, Joyce. They also enjoyed playing dominoes and bingo with the other residents. While deeply feeling the loss of Joyce this past summer, Nora continued to be surrounded by love. She looked forward to regular phone conversations with her cousin Peggy Flammer of New Jersey until two weeks before her passing.

The family wishes to extend their deepest gratitude to the staff at Payn Home—particularly Jessica, Dina, and Mandy—who treated Nora like a cherished family member. We are also profoundly grateful to the nurses, CNAs, and staff at Noble Horizons for the tender care they provided in her final days.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

For more obituaries, see pages A5 and A7

Send obituaries to [obituaries@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:obituaries@lakevillejournal.com)

**NEW FACES**

Continued from Page A1

she developed an interest in the arts, particularly videography and photography. Professionally, Long has worked on numerous film and television sets and has received recognition for her short films, including her latest project, "A Long Way Up," a personal documentary exploring her family's passion for hot air ballooning.

Aly Morrissey of Millbrook, N.Y., has been named managing editor of The Lakeville Journal. Morrissey joined LJMN in May 2025 as a staff reporter and photographer for the Millerton News, where she covered local government, community life, and the arts across northeastern Dutchess County and northwest Connecticut. Morrissey earned a bachelor's degree in print journalism from Quinnipiac University in 2009 and began her career in the Boston media market as a radio sound board operator and an editorial assistant for the Boston Herald. Her career has also spanned more than a decade in school communications, including roles at Indian Mountain School and Millbrook School. She also served as the production photographer at the Sharon Playhouse for the past three seasons.

Graham Corrigan, a journalist and musician from Philadelphia, joins the organization as a staff reporter for The Millerton News. With local roots, he grew up visiting his grandparents at their home in Lakeville, where he



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

**Left to right: Graham Corrigan, Allen Deeds, Aly Morrissey and Madi Long celebrate new roles at LJMN Media, the publisher of The Millerton News and The Lakeville Journal.**

was a zealous member of the Salisbury Swim Team. After graduating from Cornell University and CUNY's Newmark Graduate School of Journalism, he worked as a writer and editor at music websites like Pigeons & Planes, Film Comment and Genius. Corrigan spent the last six years in Los Angeles working as a video director for GQ before moving to Lakeville last year. Graham is also an audio engineer, pianist, and member of the band Mickey Cake. The band's second album, happy now, was released in 2025.

Allen Deeds joins the organization as a finance associate, bringing analytical, organizational and critical thinking skills to the role.

Deeds earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Western Governors University and previously managed the meat department at Davis IGA, where he developed an interest in working with data to improve processes. Originally from Falls Village, he moved away after high school but returned in 2022. Outside of work, he enjoys playing guitar, playing strategy games and exploring towns in New England.

James H. Clark, chief executive officer and publisher of LJMN Media, said the

group will strengthen the organization across editorial, audience, and operational work. He added, "These changes strengthen our ability to produce strong local journalism, connect with readers across platforms, and serve our communities well in the Northwest Corner and Eastern Dutchess County."

Executive Editor Christian Murray, who was appointed in October 2025, said the team will bring "new energy and perspectives to the newsroom and throughout our communities."

**MALCOLM MITCHELL**

Continued from Page A1

the potential of my life," Mitchell said.

At age 21, a star athlete at the University of Georgia, Mitchell was embarrassed by his lack of reading ability.

He went to a bookstore and bought a pile of children's books.

"Dr. Seuss, Shel Silverstein, I read them all," he remembered.

He described a methodical process, reading the picture books to develop his vocabulary and learn sentence structure.

Then he moved on to graphic novels and eventually books written for adults.

Now, at age 32, he reads widely and constantly.

Mitchell published his first children's book, "The Magician's Hat," in 2016.

He travels the country, speaking to schools about reading and about life. He told the students that their job is "to wake up every day and be the absolute best you can be."

After his remarks, Mitchell fielded questions from a group of student journalists.

One question was how he converted a weakness – reading comprehension – into a strength.

"It's the life I live now," he

replied.

He said he had college and pro teammates with the same problem who were encouraged by his forthrightness. "In confirming my weakness, I liberated others."

"The first step to growing is admitting where you currently are," he said.

Mitchell threw in a little NFL tidbit at the end of the discussion.

He said he was staying late at practice, in part to try and get to know Brady – a notoriously hard worker – better.

He noticed that Brady rubbed something on his skin after his shower.

Afterwards, he peeked into Brady's locker and saw it was coconut oil.

The next day, he confessed to Brady that he'd looked in the locker and asked why he used coconut oil.

"He was married at the time to one of the most beautiful women on the planet," said Mitchell, referring to model Giselle Bündchen, who was married to Brady from 2009 to 2022.

"He said she rubbed coconut oil on herself every day," Mitchell paused and then grinned. "So now I wear coconut oil every day."

**TEO TACOS**

Continued from Page A1

Inside, bright orange walls, simple wood tables and large arched mirrors create a casual setting. The restaurant is located near Trakside Tacos, which opened its doors in July 2025.

For the couple, who live in Torrington, the opening brings together their background in the restaurant industry and connection to North Canaan.

"We would always travel through North Canaan," Carlos Gomez said. "We saw the town, and it always looked like a happy town. There are always people walking around, and we love to see that."

Yesica Gomez, who currently works as a family support specialist with Family Strides, frequently visits the area to meet with families. Before that, she spent more than a decade in the restaurant industry, including nine years as a manager at McDonald's in Torrington.

Carlos Gomez, originally from Mexico, has worked in restaurants since arriving in the United States at age 22.

His first job was at a Mexican restaurant, and he most recently worked at an Italian restaurant in Avon.

"This country has treated me well," he said. "People treat me as though I were born here."

Yesica Gomez, who immigrated to the U.S. from the Dominican Republic as a child, said her father brought the family to Connecticut for better educational opportunities. It was after graduating high school in 2009 that she met Carlos. When she needed a ride to apply to college, her brother-in-law suggested a friend could take her — that friend was Carlos.

"We've been together since," Yesica Gomez said.

They now are raising three children, ages 11, 5, and 3, with a fourth due in July.

The menu is expected to be affordably priced, and the couple has yet to finalize hours. The restaurant's name, Teo Tacos, is a tribute to Carlos Gomez's mother, Teodora, who still lives in Mexico.

"We're excited for what's ahead," Carlos Gomez said.

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PHOTO BY AGNES FOHN

Alissa DeGregorio, a New Milford-based artist and designer, has pieces on display at Mine Hill Distillery.

## Artist Alissa DeGregorio brings her work to Roxbury and New Milford

By Robin Roraback

A visit to Alissa DeGregorio Art, the website of the artist and designer, reveals the multiple talents she possesses.

Tabs for design, commissions, print club, and classes still reveal only part of her work. On the design page are examples of graphic and book design, including book covers illustrated by DeGregorio, along with samples of licensed products such as coloring pages and lunch boxes, and examples of prop design she has done for film.

The commissions tab includes sam-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

## ART

### Falls Village exhibit honors life and work of Priscilla Belcher

By Robin Roraback

Priscilla Belcher, a Canaan resident who was known for her community involvement and willingness to speak out, will be featured in a posthumous exhibition at the ArtWall at the Hunt Library from April 25 through May 15.

An opening reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on April 25. The show will commemorate her life and work and will include watercolors and etchings. Belcher died in November 2025 at the age of 95.

Christian Allyn, a close friend, said Belcher largely kept her creative work private. "Priscilla was a very private person. She kept her painting and writings to herself and only a few close family members," he said, noting that she was self-taught.

After Belcher suffered a fall in 2024, Allyn and her neighbor, Gail Sinclair, prepared her home for her return. "During this process is when Gail and

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

## FOOD

### Remembering George and Anne Phillips' Edgewood restaurant in Amenia

By Joe Brennan

With the recent death of George Phillips at 100, locals are remembering the Edgewood Restaurant, the Amenia supper club he and his wife, Anne Phillips, owned and operated together for more than two decades.

At the Edgewood, there were Delmonico steaks George carved in the basement, lobster tails from an infrared cooker, local trout from the stream outside the door, and a folded paper cup of butter, with heaping bowls of family-style potatoes and vegetables, plus a shot glass of crème de menthe to calm the stomach when the modest check arrived after dessert.

It began as a former gas station and tavern called The Narrows, on the road to Sharon, around a switchback east of Troutbeck. It became a roadside restaurant for weddings, bar mitzvahs, proms, graduations, birthdays and holidays with relatives. At Easter, New Year's and Christmas, George and Anne served the food free — customers only paid for drinks as a thank-you for another good year.

It was a different time. Amenia was an isolated dairy farming community, and two large state psychiatric hospitals employed 4,000 potential diners. People needed a friendly neighborhood restaurant run by a local couple who knew everybody. They offered special-occasion favorites: fried chicken, meatloaf, sliced turkey with gravy, pork chops from nearby farms, and fresh white bread baked at 4 a.m. by George.

There was no maître d'.



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Edgewood Restaurant, a beloved Amenia roadside restaurant run by George and Anne Phillips, pictured during its peak years in the 1950s and '60s.

Waitresses, many still teenagers, greeted guests and helped them find a table. Cloth napkins and sturdy white plates sat in a knotty pine dining room that felt more like a family home than a formal restaurant. Large tables down the center accommodated families. George and Anne fed the staff before opening, and everyone ate the same meals served to customers. Everything was homemade classics of the 1950s and '60s: cold shrimp and cocktail sauce, stuffed mushrooms, veal parmesan, King crab, clams and oysters on the half shell, chopped hamburger steak, French onion soup, fried chicken and pumpkin pie.

George was a tough but fair boss with a quirky sense of hu-

mor. Former employee Kevin Rooney, who worked there as a teenager, recalled being served a hot fudge sundae on a sweltering day — only to discover the "ice cream" was Crisco. Revenge came later in the form of a Coke spiked with Tabasco sauce.

George also kept a series of German shepherds — Rinny, Schultz and Dooley — named after a Jonathan Winters routine featuring talking beer steins. The dogs were locked inside at night for security. Tony Robert, another former employee, remembered coming in one day to find Schultz with the seat of someone's pants in her jaws. When kids tried to sneak into a dance through the bathroom window after the fire marshal

had closed the overcrowded place, George put Rinny in the restroom. Problem solved.

Anne also ran a no-nonsense operation. She marked liquor bottles at night so no one would sneak a drink, though the cleanup crew found ways around it, sipping the blackberry liqueur instead. Along with cooking and baking everything from scratch, she raised their children in a life closely tied to the restaurant. The bus dropped their daughters off there after school, and one recalled doing homework while the family spent more time in the restaurant than in their nearby home.

After 23 years of long hours — often more than 100 a week

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

## ART

### Agnes Martin at Dia:Beacon

By D.H. Callahan

At Dia:Beacon, simplicity commands attention.

On Saturday, April 4, the venerated modern art museum — located at 3 Beekman St. in Beacon, NY — opened an exhibition of works by the middle-to late-20th-century minimalist artist Agnes Martin.

Martin, the Canadian-born New York and New Mexico resident who died in 2004, made the kind of ambiguous abstract art that inspires countless imitators and interpreters.

At first glance, most of the pieces in the new show, "Painting Is Not the Act of Painting" (on display until June 22) are variations on simple lines and grids painstakingly applied by the artist's own hand using paint and pencil.

Despite their relative simplicity, it took Martin years of rejecting her own artwork to reach this level of pure abstraction. She would often take knives to paintings she didn't like, literally slashing work that didn't live up to her expectations. It wasn't until she was in her 50s that she began making

the work she would become known for.

That evolution is reflected in the exhibition's 24 works.

Dia:Beacon seems like a perfect place for them. The museum is a monument to simplicity. Even the most complicated pieces are abstractions in their own ways. A straight, unpainted plywood wall with diagonal backing by Donald Judd suggests a room under construction. Michael Heizer's singular ovoid boulder embedded into a

gallery wall strikes unease into visitors.

Martin's pieces feel at home here. In the context of such visual, if not conceptual, simplicity, her art seems louder than it might in almost any other setting. Faint blue and peach stripes gain vibrancy when compared with the all-white canvases of Robert Ryman or the large gray mirrors of Gerhard Richter, both a few rooms away. By comparison, the visibly human-drawn lines of pencil or

etched-out paint seem almost complicated, and technically masterful.

It's enough to make you ponder the name of the exhibition, "Painting Is Not the Act of Painting," pulled from a quote by Martin: "Painting is not making paintings; it is a development of awareness. And with this awareness, your work changes, but very slowly."

In a world where studio as-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

## INSIDE

### SPORTS

Foley hits two homers in Housy's comeback win over O'Brien Tech

### CALENDAR

A list of upcoming events



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## ...Alissa DeGregorio

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

ples of her pet and house portraits, as well as a new endeavor: wedding bouquet portraits.

"I love painting flowers and it's a great way to forever preserve such an iconic part of a bride's special day," she said.

A shopping tab offers paintings, prints, and calendars for purchase.

Other tabs highlight the classes she teaches at the New Milford Public Library and another new venture:

"I'm starting a print club called 'Root & Wing'. Each month, I'll release an animal- or plant-themed - painting as a mailable 5-by-7 print with an accompanying information sheet, meditation and herbal recipe. People can purchase just one month or subscribe for the year," DeGregorio explained.

DeGregorio considered a career in music. "My dad was a musician, always playing trumpet, piano, guitar or saxophone. As a teenager, I took quickly to the guitar and began writing my own songs, performing on my own and with a band. I thought music would be my path until my mid-twenties, when my focus switched to art."

She recalls a childhood surrounded by art. "My mom was also an artist, creating detailed pen-and-ink drawings. Artist was the first thing I knew I

wanted to be when I grew up and it was never discouraged. As a little kid, I would draw beside her, sculpt with homemade play doh, craft, crochet or paint."

After graduating from high school in New Fairfield, Conn., and attending Naropa University in Colorado to pursue fine arts and Buddhism for a time, she returned to Connecticut to finish her degree at Western Connecticut State University.

"When I was close to completing an illustration BA, a professor encouraged me to stay the extra year and double major in graphic design." She said the extra time gave her "a strong foundation in design and storytelling. Experience in so many different creative fields has guided my practice and allowed me to pursue many avenues of art-making."

Her mother, besides being an artist herself, runs Storybook Arts, an agency representing children's book illustrators. DeGregorio has sometimes helped out. "I've always loved children's illustration; there's nothing better than a beautifully illustrated story. I had an insider's eye to

the nuts and bolts of the illustration business early on, and that taught me about pricing, contracts, the illustration process and also how to be business savvy but kind."

DeGregorio likes working with authors who self-publish. She has done this both as a designer and an agent. "When I'm designing a book, I'm also the bridge between artist and author, the final step that pulls everything together. A good agent not only keeps track of timelines and contracts but is a supportive and encouraging ally to the artists they represent."

An interesting aspect of her many talents is creating props. "I've done some prop work for TV and movies, such as handwritten lyric sheets for the upcoming Michael movie, or document and book props for Stranger Things. Those are fun for the wow factor!" she explained.

Of the classes she teaches, she said, "Teaching is enjoyable in that I'm helping to inspire people to have confidence in their own creativity. Watching students leave my classes

feeling more joyful is its own reward."

"I've been teaching adult painting classes at the New Milford Public Library for about four years now. I recently taught a series focusing on painting emotions. We talked about what the emotion meant to us, and how to represent that visually. For kids, I try to focus on process art and skill building through an activity, like designing a mythical map or board game, or Herve Tullet-style workshops." DeGregorio has several classes ongoing through the summer.

DeGregorio's paintings are on display at Mine Hill Distillery in Roxbury, with an artist reception on May 2 from 5 to 7 p.m. Her husband's band, Gumbo, will play at the reception.

From May 15 to 17, DeGregorio will be at Goat Days in New Milford, where she will have art for sale.

To find out more about Alissa DeGregorio Art and all that she offers, go to [alissadegregorio.com](http://alissadegregorio.com). A link to sign up for classes is also available on the site.

DeGregorio feels fortunate to have followed a path to being an artist. "I love it all and can't believe some of the things I've gotten to do. I look forward to what the future may hold."

"When I'm designing a book, I'm also the bridge between artist and author, the final step that pulls everything together."

ALISSA DEGREGORIO

## ... Priscilla Belcher

CONTINUED FROM B1

I began to uncover the volumes of art that Priscilla did throughout her life," he said.

Belcher was born in 1930 in the Huntsville section of Canaan, the youngest of 10 children. Her family struggled during the Great Depression. "She could remember the entire family splitting one cabbage for dinner," Allyn said. Her father died when she was nine.

She graduated from Lee H. Kellogg School, when it was still located at the Hunt Library building, and went on to graduate from Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS). She married John Belcher, foster son of local landowner Dorothy Haven, and moved in 1952 to a house in South Canaan that Haven gave them, near the South Canaan Meeting house, the "Little Red House."

Years later, Belcher sold the home to help cover legal expenses for her neighbor, Peter Reilly, who was wrongly accused of killing his mother while a student at HVRHS in the 1970s.

Allyn described Belcher as part of a generation shaped by hardship. "Priscilla was one of the last living examples of the greatest generation," he said. "Through that struggle, her tenacity and character were formed, which helped shape



PHOTO BY LYDIA DOWNS

Hunt Library in Falls Village will present a commemorative show of paintings and etchings by the late Priscilla Belcher of Falls Village.

Canaan and the wider region into what it is today."

He added that her advocacy ranged from pushing for pollution controls at the Falls Village landfill to calling for reforms in Region One schools. "Her willingness to put her house up to pay for Peter Reilly's legal expenses, consistent advocacy of pollution controls ... and reform

to Region One in 2010 led this area into a far better place," he said.

Belcher worked as a bookkeeper for the Lakeville Journal and Geer Nursing. After 1978, she devoted her time to gardening, documenting local history, refinishing furniture, attending town meetings, supporting people in recovery, and developing her painting and writing.

"She had a very hard life and often upset other people while she was intending to do good,"

Allyn said. He recalled a conversation near the end of her life: "She said to me in her last days, 'You know, I think I went a little too far with what I did in Falls Village,'" referring to her outspokenness. He added that after reflecting, "her entire outlook changed."

The opening reception will be a celebration of Priscilla Belcher's life, art, and legacy. All are welcome.

For more information visit [www.huntlibrary.org/art-wall](http://www.huntlibrary.org/art-wall)

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**Noble HORIZONS**

COMMUNITY

# Salisbury Rotary brings Derby race-day flair to Noble Horizons for community fundraiser

By Debra A. Aleksinas

SALISBURY — As millions tune in to the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs on May 2, a spirited local tradition unfolds in Salisbury, where the pageantry, fashion and excitement of race day are recreated — with a community purpose.

For the past six years in the Community Room at Noble Horizons, all eyes turn to the big screen as the crowd settles in, drinks in hand and anticipation building. Women in elaborate Derby hats — bursting with oversized silk flowers, feathers and playful cutouts — mingle with men dressed for the occasion in crisp jackets and bow ties, fedoras and the occasional red rose on a lapel.

As post time nears, the room quiets, then hums with nervous energy. When the horn finally sounds, the crowd erupts. The next two minutes determine which thoroughbred will be ceremoniously draped in a blanket of roses.

“They definitely take it to heart,” said Salisbury Rotary Club President Bill Pond of the local revelers. “It’s just tile and bricks here, but when they’re waiting for that horn to go off, it feels like the real thing in Kentucky.”

The club’s annual Kentucky Derby Social has become the Rotary Club’s signature fundraiser, blending high-spirited fun with a deeper purpose: supporting



Salisbury Rotary Club President Bill Pond and his wife, Beth, dressed for the occasion during last year’s Kentucky Derby Social.

PHOTO PROVIDED

neighbors across the North-west Corner.

Proceeds from the event support local food banks, student scholarships, backpacks and clothing for back-to-school programs, as well as nonprofit groups serving residents in need.

Between sponsorships, a silent and live auction, ticket sales and monetary donations, the organization is hoping to raise about \$6,000 this year.

“Rotary members volunteer their time, and all the money raised goes back to the community,” said Pond, who is also the administrator at Noble Horizons Senior Community, which provides the event space, food and refreshments.

Over the past several years, said Rotary treasurer

er Susan Dickinson, the organization has donated more than \$50,000 locally — helping stock food pantry shelves, support families preparing for the school year and provide scholarships to area students.

“All the money raised comes from local people, so it goes back into the community. We try to help those that are most in need,” said Pond. “Everybody’s hurting.”

Planning for the event starts many months in advance.

“A lot of time and effort goes into it,” Dickinson said of the volunteers who take care of the many details, from soliciting donations and sponsorships, to planning the menu, selling tickets, creating the gift baskets and transforming the com-

munity room into a festive, Derby-worthy space.

On a recent weekday in April, while planning was in full swing, Dickinson noted that Fran Chapell, the club’s secretary, was busy assembling donated items into themed gift baskets for the silent auction, a highlight of the evening’s fundraising efforts.

There is one element to the Salisbury social, however, that consistently steals the show.

“It’s all about the hats,” said Pond. “Women show up in hats with gigantic pink or red flowers and all kinds of decorations on them.”

Gentlemen, too, often dress to the nines. “There’s a gentleman who wears an authentic suit that somebody at the track would wear. It’s a lot of fun.”

Organizers are optimistic this year’s Derby social will draw a minimum of 100 attendees. “Last year’s turnout was closer to 75,” Dickinson said, citing competition from other local events on that same day.

But if the energy inside Noble Horizons is any indication, the crowd will once again rise to its feet when the starting horn sounds — proving that even miles from Churchill Downs, the spirit of the Derby, and the generosity behind it, runs just as strong.

For details and tickets, email [salisburyrotary@gmail.com](mailto:salisburyrotary@gmail.com) or call 860-671-1676 or 860-671-1415

## ... Edgewood

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



George Phillips bakes fresh bread in the early morning hours at the Edgewood Restaurant.

PHOTO PROVIDED

— George began stepping back, at times closing the restaurant to recover. He later moved into real estate and Anne opened a successful craft store.

George sold the place in 1972. At one point, it became a lively beer joint and concert venue, featuring local bands, such as Random Concept, Little Village and Good Friend Coyote. When New York lowered its drinking age to 18 — while it remained 21 just across the state line — it drew crowds from Connecticut. Locals called them “Connecticut Rags,” kids with fancy cars who came to dance, drink and sometimes fight, rocking the floors so hard they bounced like a trampoline and shook dust from the rafters.

At closing time, they had to dodge police waiting across the state line. Sometimes Jack Rooney, Kevin’s father and the bartender, drove them home. One morning, Betty Rooney got a call from a worried mother asking if her son was there. “If he’s wearing red tennis shoes,” she said, “he’s asleep on my front lawn.”

The Edgewood also drew actors from the Sharon Playhouse and notable visitors, including Paul Newman, Cole Porter and even Supreme Court justices. George showed silent movies on a sheet in the dining room, and

guests could dance to the Les Schulman Orchestra or to George and his brothers, who had their own band.

It served as a gathering place for groups such as the Eastern Artificial Insemination Cooperative and for events like the Knights of Columbus Communion breakfast. Families marked milestones there — including one that celebrated five birthdays at a Palm Sunday brunch in 1970.

Christmas dinner cost \$3 and included stuffed olives, roast pig, prime rib, Virginia ham, deep-sea scallops, Long Island duck, creamed onions and, of course, crème de menthe parfait. On New Year’s Eve 1959, dinner was \$15 a couple — \$7.50 each for all the champagne you could drink.

The venue came to an end when the building burned to the ground in 1985.

The building is gone, but not the memories — the laughter, the music, the meals, and George carving steaks by hand. He lived a century, but the Edgewood, for those who knew it, was timeless.

Next time you’re driving to Sharon and pass the empty, weedy lot with a rusty electric meter, imagine calling George’s old number to make a reservation for a place that lives on in memory.

LIFESTYLE

## Treats, tricks and training that sticks

# 6 smart tips for training a new puppy or dog

By Gary Richter, MS, DVM

Bringing home a new puppy or newly adopted dog is exciting, but it can also feel overwhelming once the training begins.

The good news is that training does not have to be complicated. Here are six of the best techniques to keep in mind when training a new puppy or dog:

1. Be consistent from day one.

Dogs learn best when the rules stay the same. If one person allows jumping on the couch and another corrects it, your dog will get mixed messages. The same goes for feeding routines, potty breaks and commands. Keep your language simple and consistent.

2. Reward the behavior you want right away.

Timing is everything in dog training. If your puppy sits when asked, comes when called or goes to the bathroom outside, reward that behavior immediately so they can connect the action with the outcome.

3. Keep training sessions short and manageable.

With puppies, attention spans are limited. Training for too long can lead to frustration for both the dog and the owner. Instead of one long session, aim for a few short sessions throughout the day.

4. Focus on routines before perfection.

One of the biggest mistakes new dog owners make is expecting too much too soon. Before worrying about perfect obedience, focus on building a strong routine.



Dr. Gary Richter, America’s Favorite Vet, blends conventional and holistic care.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Regular mealtimes, walks, potty breaks, playtime and rest all help create structure. That structure lays the groundwork for better behavior because dogs feel more secure when they know what to expect.

5. Correct gently and re-

direct quickly.

Training is not about punishing mistakes; it is about helping your dog make better choices. If your puppy starts chewing on a shoe, redirect them to an appropriate chew toy. If they start jumping, ask for a different behavior, like sitting. Calm redirection teaches much more effectively than harsh reactions.

Training a new puppy or dog takes patience, but it is also one of the best investments you can make in your pet’s long-term well-being. With consistency, positive reinforcement and realistic expectations, families can make training feel less stressful and more rewarding.

6. When in doubt, seek expert help.

All dogs are trainable given the right technique. If you are unclear how to proceed or are not getting the results

you want, consult a qualified trainer or behaviorist.

When looking for the right trainer or veterinary behaviorist, ask whether they follow LIMA (least invasive, minimally aversive) principles. Resources for positive reinforcement trainers include the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants (IABC), the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT), the Academy for Dog Trainers and the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior (AVSAB).

Dr. Gary Richter, named America’s Favorite Vet by the American Veterinary Medical Foundation, is a veterinary acupuncturist, chiropractor and founder of Ultimate Pet Nutrition. He is the owner and medical director of Montclair Veterinary Hospital.

## At The Movies

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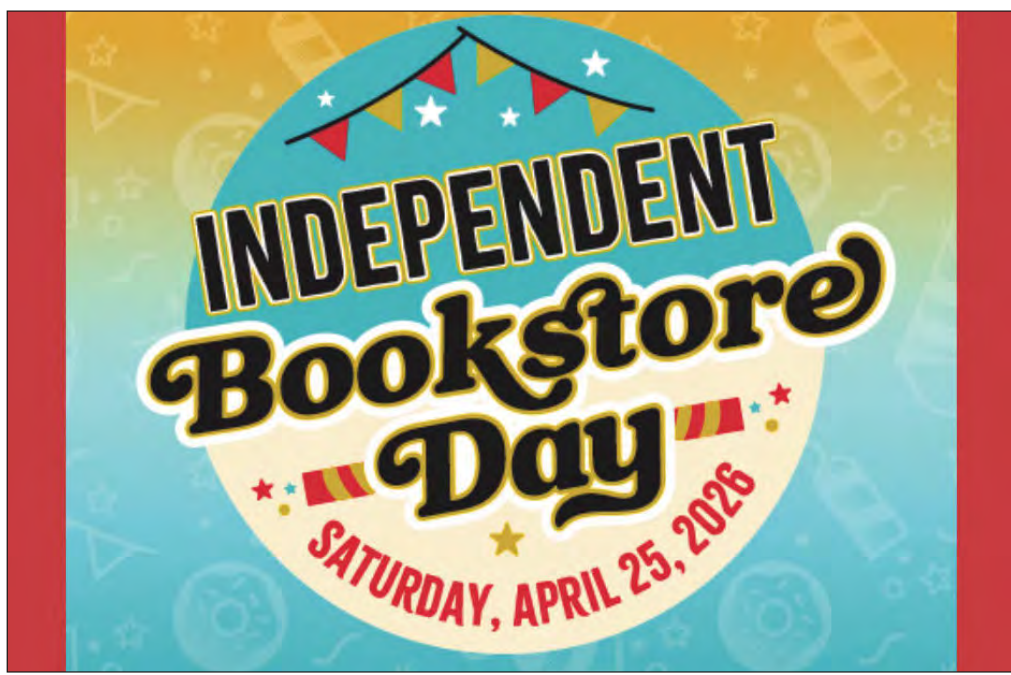
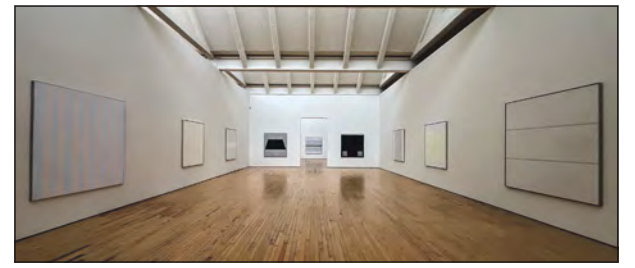


PHOTO PROVIDED

*Oblong Books in Millerton will mark Independent Bookstore Day on Saturday, April 25, joining more than 1,600 stores nationwide. The all-day event features signed books, exclusive merchandise and a drop-in, browse-at-your-leisure atmosphere. Free; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.*

## ... Agnes Martin

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



PHOTOS BY D.H. CALLAHAN

**Minimalist works by Agnes Martin on display at Dia:Beacon.**

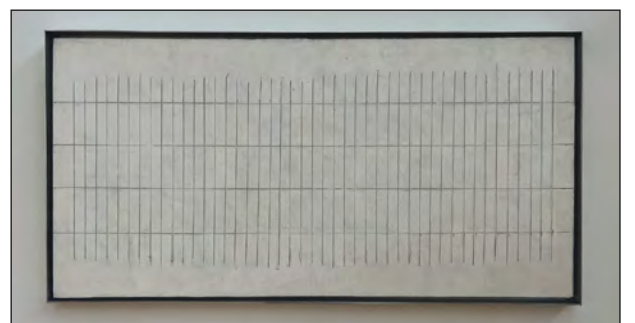
assistants and fabricators contribute to the output of many artists, Martin relished the act of painting. She painted nearly every day of her adult life. For her, the process was an integral part of the work, and it's hard to look at these pieces without appreciating her hand.

This repetitive study is also demonstrated across the hall in a gallery dedicated to a single work by Andy Warhol. The piece, "Shadows," is a study of variations on a single subject. Warhol took photos of shadows in his office and, using a silkscreen process, painted them 102

times on identically sized canvases.

Walking into the room, it may seem like the same image repeated. On closer inspection, the canvases vary widely in color and composition. The work suggests that repetition can produce unexpected forms.

Agnes Martin has become enshrined as one of the leaders of the minimalist movement of the 1960s and '70s. Her work and artistic philosophies have inspired countless admirers. This exhibition displays a selection of important pieces from nearly 50 years of practice.



**Subtle grids and softly layered lines by Agnes Martin draw the eye at Dia:Beacon**

## Tri-Corner Calendar

### APRIL 23

**Policy Potluck: Benefiting Birds and People**  
Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, Conn.  
6 to 7:30 p.m.

Overview of federal legislation supporting bird habitat and public health, with discussion led by Audubon staff at Sharon Audubon Center. Free; ages 16+. Preregistration required. Info: 860-364-0520 (ext. 115).

### APRIL 24

**Salisbury Forum: America at 250, with Special Emphasis on the Proposition That All Men Are Created Equal**  
The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Conn.  
Talk by Akhil Reed Amar, Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science at Yale University, at 7:30 p.m. Complimentary copies of his book "Born Equal: Remaking America's Constitution, 1840-1920" will be available. Free admission.

**Spring Arts and Fine Crafts Show**  
Merwinsville Hotel, 1 Browns Forge Road, Gaylordsville, Conn.

The ninth annual Spring Arts and Fine Crafts Show will be held over two weekends, April 17-19 and April 24-26, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day at the historic Merwinsville Hotel. More than 90 local artists and artisans will offer work for sale, including glass, photography, jewelry, sculpture, fiber arts, woodwork, pottery and paintings. Live artist demonstrations will be held Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. A suggested \$3 donation is requested; children under 10 and members are admitted free.

**Celebration of Poetry**  
David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org  
3:30 p.m.

An afternoon of poetry reading and sharing in honor of National Poetry Month. Community members of all ages are invited to read their own work or favorite poems, or to listen. Features poems by Kellogg student poets from a workshop led by Mark Gozonsky. Refreshments served; no registration required.

**Cybersecurity with Pam Doran**  
Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org  
12:30 p.m.

Learn how to stay safe online, avoid scams and protect personal data with tech educator Pam Doran. Lunch served; registration required at hotchkisslibrary.org.

**The Grace Note Open Mic Night**  
The Grace Note @ Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.  
7:30 p.m.

Stissing Center hosts its first Open Mic Night for music, spoken word, comedy and more. All ages and experience levels welcome. Hosted by local duo Roger & Lenny. thestissingcenter.org

**Happy Hour Piano Series with Isabella Mendes**  
American Mural Project, 90 Whiting Street, Winsted, Conn.  
5 to 7 p.m.

Live piano performance blending Brazilian and jazz styles in AMP's gallery space. \$8 advance.

### APRIL 25

**Exhibition Opening Reception: Independence Revisited**  
Sharon Historical Society & Museum, 18 Main St., Sharon, Conn.

Cocktail reception 5 to 7 p.m. and opening of a new exhibition exploring Sharon in 1776, 1876 and 1976, launching a six-month program for the nation's 250th. Free and open to the public.

**3rd Annual Community Read Aloud**  
Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org  
Celebrate National Library Week by joining a community read-aloud of "Johnny Tremain" by Esther Forbes. Sign up for 10-minute reading slot or drop in to listen from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. register at hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com

**Repair Cafe**  
NorthEast Millerton Library Annex, 28 Century Blvd., Millerton, N.Y.  
Free repair cafe from 11am to 3pm. Repairs limited to two items per person. Five knives count as one item.

**Better Habitat for Birds: Volunteer Workday**  
Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, Conn.  
April 25  
1 to 3 p.m.

Help remove invasive plants and restore habitat at Sharon Audubon Center. Volunteers will assist with early spring removal of species such as bittersweet and multiflora rose. Ages 10+. No experience necessary; tools provided. Register online. Info: 860-364-0520 (ext. 115).

**Vulnerable Earth: Climate Change in the High Arctic**  
Tremaine Gallery, The Hotchkiss School, 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, Conn.

Opening reception for an exhibition exploring the Arctic and climate change through works by Arctic Circle residency artists. On view April 21 to June 14. Reception 4 to 6 p.m.

**Stepping into Song: Choral Sounds of Latin America**  
April 25 at Trinity Church in Lakeville, Conn. and April 26 at Saint James Place in Great Barrington, Mass.  
April 25 at Trinity Church in Lakeville at 7 p.m. April 26 at Saint James Place in Great Barrington at 4 p.m.

Crescendo presents Martín Palmeri's "Misatango" and the U.S. premiere of "Jüdische Kantate," blending tango rhythms with choral tradition. Featuring Crescendo Chorus, soprano Nadia Aguilar and guest instrumentalists at Trinity Church. Tickets at crescendo.org

Items appear as space permits. Submit calendar items to editor@lakevillejournal.com.

**Birding for Beginners**  
Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, Conn.  
10 a.m. to noon

Introductory birding workshop with classroom and outdoor instruction at Sharon Audubon Center. \$20/participant; ages 16+. Preregistration required. Info: 860-364-0520 (ext. 115).

**Spring Migration Bird Walk**  
Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, Conn.  
7 to 8:30 a.m.

Guided walk through Miles Wildlife Sanctuary to observe migrating birds and learn identification basics. \$15/adult, \$5/youth (8+). Preregistration required. Info: 860-364-0520 (ext. 115).

**Adam Gopnik's New York**  
Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, 14 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass.  
7 p.m.

One-man show by writer and humorist Adam Gopnik, offering stories and reflections on New York life, produced by Steve Martin and James L. Nederlander. Tickets \$40; discounts available for members and patrons age 30 and under. tickets at mahaiwe.org

**National Independent Bookstore Day**  
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10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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**Millbrook Arts Group Winter Concert Series: Musicians of Ma'alwyck**  
Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y.  
4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

A chamber music performance by the ensemble Musicians of Ma'alwyck, known for historically informed programs. Pre-show reception at 4:30 p.m.; concert from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

**Millbrook Repair Café**  
Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y.  
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bring broken household items for repair or advice from volunteer coaches, plus knife sharpening, bike maintenance demonstrations and recycling.

**Hudson Valley Puppet Slam**  
Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.  
7:30 p.m.

The 2nd Annual Puppet Slam features bold, inventive short acts blending humor, surprise, and imagination. Adults only. thestissingcenter.org

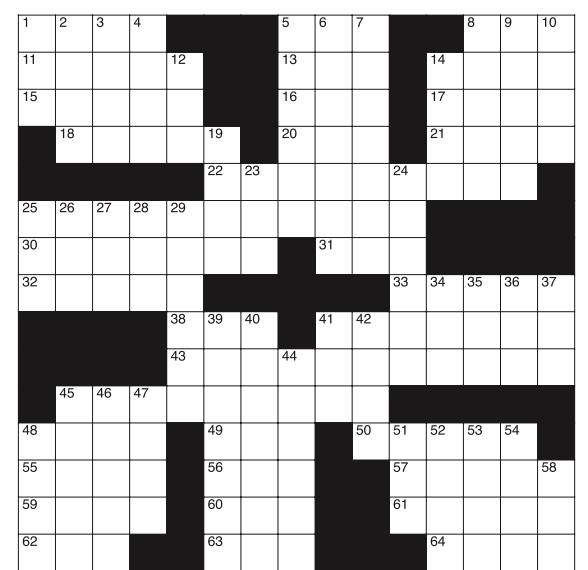
**Watercolor Floral Workshop**  
Le Jardin, 3300 Route 343, Amenia, N.Y.  
11 a.m.

Hands-on workshop led by Dorit and Romane combining floral arranging and watercolor painting. All materials provided; participants leave with a finished piece. No experience necessary; space limited. lejardinflowerfarm.com

## Brain Teasers

### CLUES ACROSS

- Egyptian bull-god
- Romanian monetary unit
- Will Ferrell holiday film
- "It Ain't Half Hot Mum" actor
- Error-related negativity
- Volcanic crater
- Boston Herald columnist Margery
- True market value
- Italian term for exchange rate
- Informal loan clubs
- Men's fashion accessory
- Children's craft supply
- Extra benefits
- In an early way
- A judge has one
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Tractor unit
- Defunct supercomputer developer
- Promotional materials
- A forgetful state
- One who beheads
- Photographers
- Small, rich sponge cake
- Clergy's vestment
- Expressed pleasure
- Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
- Zero
- Ancient Greek word for "earless"
- Nigerian governmental area
- Mild expression of surprise
- Places to hang things
- Keyboard key
- Make a mistake
- One-time president of Republic of Korea



- Three are particularly notable
- Meet one's needs
- C. European river
- Dictator
- Indicates how much out of 100 (abbr.)
- The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- Consume food
- Woman (French)
- Scrape a surface
- Green vegetable
- Pacific Standard Time
- Capital of Brazilian city
- Paddle
- Cause to become insane
- Drier and flakier
- Mimic
- ESPN personality Kimes
- One who moves slowly
- Secret political clique
- Behind the stern of a ship

### April 16 Solution

H	E	R	A	W	O	M	O	T	E	B	A	N
E	B	O	N	C	R	A	P	E	D	O	M	E
B	L	E	D	F	A	C	E	D	D	R	I	B
E	A	S	E	D	T	O	R	E	A	G	A	N
S	E	R	E	N	A	D	E	S				
B	H	P	M	A	D	T	A	G	B	B	E	E
E	A	R	N	E	D	M	I	D	M	I	N	G
A	N	O	A	S	V	A	C	S	V	E	E	D
M	O	A	B	E	E	C	E	A	G	L	E	S
S	I	S	M	E	G	D	A	T	D	O	T	
E	A	R	E	D	T	E	L	S	A	B	B	E
A	G	H	A	S	A	G	E	S	B	O	R	A
C	R	O	C	S	T	A	T	E	B	L	A	B
H	A	S	H	R	E	N	E	E	I	A	S	I

### Sudoku

		1	5					6
							2	
		2			5	3		9
	5							
		9		2			7	
	4		1		8			
8			3		4	6		
	4				9	1		
	6			5				

### April 16 Solution

1	3	7	4	5	8	2	9	6
8	2	5	3	6	9	4	7	1
4	6	9	1	2	7	8	3	5
5	4	6	8	9	3	1	2	7
9	1	2	5	7	6	3	4	8
7	8	3	2	1	4	5	6	9
3	9	1	6	4	5	7	8	2
2	7	8	9	3	1	6	5	4
6	5	4	7	8	2	9	1	3

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# Sports

## Foley hits two homers in Housy's comeback win over O'Brien Tech

By Riley Klein

FALLS VILLAGE – Housatonic Valley Regional High School's varsity baseball team battled back to win 6-4 over O'Brien Technical High School Wednesday, April 15.

It was the home opener for HVRHS. Anthony Foley sent a pair of home runs over the fence, one in the third inning and one in the fourth, to help the Mountaineers claim the lead. Before the game, HVRHS Coach Bobby Chatfield encouraged his team to "play with an immense amount of energy."

The weather was muggy at Ed Kirby Field in Falls Village – about 79 degrees and sunny when the umpire yelled "play ball."

Carson Riva got the start for HVRHS. The junior pitched four innings with five strikeouts and five walks. He gave up four hits and four runs.

O'Brien went ahead early, courtesy of a solo home run by first baseman Bruno Lombardo in the first inning. HVRHS responded in the bottom of the second with a groundout by Abram Kirshner that brought in Wyatt Bayer.

O'Brien got back on top with a big third inning in which the Condors scored three runs: Bruno Lombardo

hit an RBI double, Brody Lombardo brought him home with a sacrifice fly and then O'Brien scored on an error, bringing the game to 4-1.

During the bottom of the third, Foley hit a two-run home run. Then Riva got on base and was sent home by Bayer to tie it up at 4-4.

Foley put the Mountaineers ahead in the fourth inning with another two-run home run -- a deep shot to left field. The O'Brien dugout remarked, "this field is too small for him."

Owen Riemer took over for Riva on the mound and pitched the final three innings. He threw three strikeouts and gave up no runs to end the game 6-4.

O'Brien's Emil Smith pitched the full game for the Condors. He struck out two batters and walked one while surrendering 11 hits. On offense, Bruno Lombardo had a big game hitting 4-for-4 with a home run and three doubles.

HVRHS collected 11 hits as a team. In addition to Foley's home runs, Riemer hit 3-for-4. Chris Race hit 3-for-4 and Bayer, Riva and Wes Allyn each got one hit for the Mountaineers.

The result improved HVRHS's season record to 2-2 and O'Brien fell to 0-4.



Chris Race makes the out at second.

PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN



Owen Riemer pitching.



Housy celebrates Foley's HR.

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# Classifieds

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**JAY'S LAWN CARE IS HIRING FULL AND PART-TIME:** lawn maintenance employees. Experience operating Scag mowing equipment and ability to drive truck and trailer is needed. Salary dependent on experience. Call 860-824-0053 to schedule an interview.

**THE TOWN OF CORNWALL IS HIRING LIFEGUARDS:** and Water Safety Instructors for the 2026 season at Hammond Beach. For more information or to apply, contact Jane Hall, Beach Director, at hbeach@cornwallct.gov.

**TOWN OF CORNWALL HIRING:** The Town of Cornwall has a fulltime job opening for Highway Department Maintainer. For more details and to apply, contact first Selectmen's office 860-672-4959.

**WYANTENUCK COUNTRY CLUB IS SEEKING STAFF FOR THE 2026 SEASON:** Want to work in a beautiful setting with a great team? Full and Part-Time employment available. Positions Available: Bartenders, Dishwashers, Line Cooks, Waitstaff. Please email: brandon@wyantenuck.org or call 413-528-0350.

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**TOWN OF SHARON HELP WANTED:** Land Use Administrator - Full-time, salary range of \$57,020-\$71,275, depending on experience, plus benefits (some starting after one year). Responsible for coordinating, managing, and processing all proposals for land development in the town. Qualifications: High school diploma or GED (Associates Degree Preferred) with 4 years increasingly responsible work experience preferably in administrative work, public contact, field of land use and municipal government, or any equivalent combination and experience. For full job description, see the Town of Sharon Website (sharonct.gov) or contact the Selectmen's Office at 860-364-5789. Applications and resumes are to be received in the Selectmen's Office, P. O. Box 385, Sharon, CT 06069 by 4:00PM May 8, 2026. The Town of Sharon is an equal opportunity employer.

### HELP WANTED

**TOWN OF SHARON HELP WANTED:** Building Official - Full-time, salary range of \$72,000-\$90,000, depending on experience, plus benefits (starting after one year). Responsible for administering and enforcing the State of CT Building Code in the town. Qualifications: Associates Degree or Advanced Technical Courses related to building construction and/or design and over five years increasingly responsible experience in supervising the construction or design of buildings or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience to meet the State Certification requirements. Required to have or obtain State Certified Building Official License. For full job description, see the Town of Sharon Website (sharonct.gov) or contact the Selectmen's Office at 860-364-5789. Applications and resumes are to be received in the Selectmen's Office, P. O. Box 385, Sharon, CT 06069 by 4:00PM May 8, 2026. The Town of Sharon is an equal opportunity employer.

### HELP WANTED

**TOWN OF SHARON HELP WANTED:** Fire Marshal - Part-time, salary range of \$20,000-\$25,000, depending on experience. Responsible for the fire code enforcement, fire investigation, inspections, permitting and public safety education in the town. Qualifications: Associates Degree or Advanced Technical Courses, and over five years increasingly responsible experience in a fire department or related inspection experience. Required to have or obtain State Fire Marshal Certification. For full job description, see the Town of Sharon Website (sharonct.gov) or contact the Selectmen's Office at 860-364-5789. Applications and resumes are to be received in the Selectmen's Office, P. O. Box 385, Sharon, CT 06069 by 4:00 PM May 8, 2026. The Town of Sharon is an equal opportunity employer.

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# Real Estate

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### REAL ESTATE

**PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:** Equal Housing Opportunity. All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1966 revised March 12, 1989 which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap or familial status or national origin or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. All residential property advertised in the State of Connecticut General Statutes 46a-64c which prohibit the making, printing or publishing or

### REAL ESTATE

causing to be made, printed or published any notice, statement or advertisement with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling that indicates any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, physical or mental disability or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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### HOUSES FOR RENT

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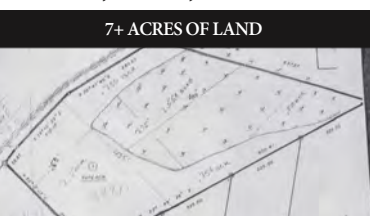
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