



The Lakeville Journal

Small Business Spotlight, Page A2

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

Parents push back on proposed Sharon school budget cuts

By Alec Linden

SHARON – In a last-ditch effort to avoid a proposed \$70,000 cut to the Sharon Center School's 2026-27 budget, local parents are mobilizing – packing meetings, posting flyers and warning that reductions could undermine the school's future.

Sharon resident Veronica Betts plastered the town with posters earlier this week, urging residents to attend town meetings to voice support for the Board of Education, which determines the SCS budget.

"We shouldn't be talking about defunding the school," said Betts, who has a young daughter enrolled in Sharon Daycare, part of SCS. "These are kids, this is so short-sighted and ridiculous."

The cuts, if adopted, could affect the staff salary line, supplies and even the cafeteria, which would require pre-made lunches to be delivered from HVRHS.

With a daughter at Sharon Daycare, Betts said her hope is

"These proposed cuts represent a step in the wrong direction."

*Meghan Kenny,
Sharon resident and SCS parent*

to stay in the public school, but if support isn't given to SCS, she and her family are considering a move to Indian Mountain School, the Lakeville-based pre-kindergarten through ninth grade private school where tuition ranges from \$31,250 to \$88,385.

Meghan Kenny, whose children are fourth-generation students at SCS, said she worries about the future of the school. An avid supporter of SCS, Kenny said she has seen some improvements between the BOE and the parent-teacher organization, but noted, "these proposed cuts represent a step in the wrong direction."

She said the proposed 0% bud-

get increase has driven her to start looking for property in nearby Salisbury to send her children to a different school.

Kenny and Betts also spoke out at a packed Town Hall on Friday night, April 24, where local parents voiced nearly unified support for more funding in the elementary school budget.

The meeting was intended as the hearing for both the school and municipal budgets, but its nearly two-hour runtime was almost entirely dedicated to reviewing the BOE's 2026-27 spending plan, which was subject to a last minute cut of \$70,000 by the BOF to keep the bottom line flat from last year. If approved, it will be the fifth straight year of zero increase to the BOE's budget.

Due to a state law known as the minimum budget requirement or MBR, towns in Connecticut are not allowed to spend less on education

See BUDGET, Page A10



PHOTO PROVIDED

HVRHS alum Caleb Shpur signs with the Detroit Tigers of Major League Baseball.

HVRHS alum Caleb Shpur signs with Detroit Tigers

By Christian Murray

Caleb Shpur, a former Housatonic Valley Regional High School standout from East Canaan, has signed with the Detroit Tigers of Major League Baseball.

Shpur, an outfielder who played at Endicott College before finishing his college career at the University of Connecticut, said the opportunity came unexpectedly earlier this month.

"Out of nowhere, honestly," Shpur, 24, said. "I was up in New

Hampshire and my advisor called me and said the Tigers still had interest. The next day, they said they wanted to get me down for a physical."

Within days, Shpur was in Florida at the Tigers' training complex in Lakeland. After completing his physical, he was assigned to the Lakeland Flying Tigers, the organization's Single-A affiliate.

His signing didn't surprise his former coach.

See CALEB SHPUR, Page A10

Students spotlight local Black, Indigenous history at Troutbeck Symposium

By Ruth Epstein

AMENIA – History came alive during the fifth annual Troutbeck Symposium on Thursday, April 23, as local middle and high school students showcased original projects, many highlighting Indigenous and Black history rooted in their communities. The event drew a large audience and participants from the Northwest Corner and neighboring New York.

Robin Starr, a Black Revolutionary War veteran with roots in the Northwest Corner, was the focus of several projects. Students from Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS) presented a video about Starr titled "The Cost of Liberty," while seventh graders from Cornwall Consolidated School (CCS) presented findings from their study, "Who We Choose to Remember."

Yarosh Semenov, a student from CCS, said, "We choose to remember Robin Starr and his family because their contributions were essential to securing the freedom we hold so dear."



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Housatonic Valley Regional High School students participate in the Troutbeck Symposium, April 23.

CCS students believe Starr is buried in Cornwall's Calhoun Cemetery in an unmarked grave alongside his son Abel and grandson Josiah, both of whom have aging gravestones. Starr's wife and son Jack are also buried there, but without stone markers, students said. Students have been working with several adults to make three additional stones a reality.

Students also approached Cornwall town officials about designating Feb. 8 as Robin Starr Day to commemorate the day of his death and legacy. They will share their story at the Memorial Day celebration, and a board depicting their work will be displayed at the Corn-

wall Historical Society.

While Starr's legacy anchored several presentations, students also examined a wider range of topics linking local history to broader themes of race, identity and education.

Among several entries from Hotchkiss School students was one exploring the connection between the private preparatory school and Hampton University, one of the nation's historically Black colleges and universities in Virginia. Hotchkiss students have donated money to the college to support its work examining Black education.

See SYMPOSIUM, Page A5

Sharon Playhouse issues ticket scam warning ahead of season debut

By Aly Morrissey

SHARON — The Sharon Playhouse is warning theatergoers ahead of its 2026 season to avoid third-party ticket sellers after scams surfaced during last year's record-breaking run.

Officials said tickets for Main-Stage and YouthStage shows are only available through the Sharon Playhouse website or box office and will not cost more than \$55.

The issue extends beyond Sharon. Regional venues, including the Warner Theater in Torrington and Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, report similar problems with third-party sellers inflating prices

or distributing fraudulent tickets.

Scams have typically taken two forms, Playhouse officials said, including legitimate tickets resold at inflated prices – sometimes up to five times the face value – and entirely fake tickets.

"We're on the radar now," joked Artistic Director Carl Andress, pointing to the theater's surge in attendance in recent years. The Playhouse saw the highest overall attendance in its history last year, a factor leaders believe is contributing to scam activity.

Michael Baldwin, the Playhouse's Education and Commu-

See TICKET SCAM, Page A10



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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.

Stop sign accident

Just before 7 a.m. on April 20, Douglas Mitchell, 64, of Winsted was driving west on Route 44 in North Canaan passing the intersection with Deely Road when another vehicle, a BMW X3 driven by Kelley Sue Babbin, 58, of North Canaan collided with his Ford F150 on the rear driver's side. There were no injuries, but Mitchell's vehicle was disabled in the incident. Babbin was found at fault and was issued an infraction for failure to obey a stop sign.

Parking lot pillar hit and run

At an unknown date and time, a vehicle struck a concrete pillar in the Cornwall Post Office parking lot. Anyone with information regarding the incident is asked to

contact Troop B at 860-626-1821.

Single vehicle accident on Route 44

At about 1 a.m. on April 22, Josephine Trinchillo, 24, of New Fairfield got into a vehicular accident on Route 44 in Salisbury near the intersection with Twin Lakes Road. The driver stated she had attempted to turn around in the roadway and in doing so struck an unknown object, however the trooper on scene determined that she had lost control of the vehicle while negotiating a turn and collided with a tree. The Volkswagen Jetta she was driving was disabled in the incident, and she was transported to Sharon Hospital for possible injuries. Trinchillo was issued a written infraction for failure to maintain lane.

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.



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Brierley Lloyd Hannan of William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty closed the sale of the historic Canaan Union Station for \$800,000. The new owner will continue its railroad related uses and current tenants. See full article in the April 1 edition of The Lakeville Journal, online at lakevillejournal.com.

North Canaan median home price climbs to \$340K

By Christine Bates

NORTH CANAAN – The 12-month trailing median price for a single-family home, excluding condos, in North Canaan was \$340,000 for the period ending March 31, 2026.

This figure marks a 13% increase from the \$300,000 median recorded for the 12 months ending March 31, 2025, and a 38% increase from \$245,500 for the comparable period ending March 31, 2024.

Single-family home sales in North Canaan, measured on a 12-month rolling basis, remained within the historic range of 14 to 30 homes sold annually. A total of 25 single-family homes were sold in the 12 months ending March 31, 2026, compared with 14 sales in the period ending March 31, 2025, and

17 sales for the 12 months ending March 31, 2024.

Inventory remained low in North Canaan as of April 25, 2026. Only three single-family homes were listed for sale, none below the median price of \$340,000, along with two parcels of vacant land. Rental availability was similarly tight, with only two homes listed for rent.

January Transfers

33 Granite Avenue – 5 bedroom/2 bath home on 0.46 acres sold by Michael Gershon to Tule River Homebuyer Earned Equity Agency for \$475,000

31 Railroad Street – Apartment building on 0.4 acres sold by Connor Rose Realty Canaan LLC to 1 A&M Realty LLC for \$1,850,000

February Transfers

246 Ashley Falls Road – 4 bedroom/2 bath home

built in 1800 sold by Charles Bell to Sabrina Zheng for \$280,000

March Transfers

East Canaan Road – 97 acres of residential agricultural land sold by William J Linkovich to William F Linkovich for \$50,000

70 Church Street, D6 – 2 bedroom/1.5 bath condo sold by Daniel Hare to Ryan Yarde for \$175,000

182 Church Street – 3 bedroom/1.5 bath home sold by Howard Moore to Ryan Long for \$300,000

70 Church Street, D1 – 2 bedroom/1.5 bath condo sold by Estate of Debra Ann Whitbeck to 32 Railroad LLC for \$95,000

75 Main Street – Former train station sold by Connecticut Railroad Historical Association to Canaan Station LLC for \$800,000

34 Old Turnpike North –

3 bedroom/3 bath home built in 2024 on 6.1 acres sold by Andrew Pelletier to Steven Milanowycz for \$1,050,000

* Town of North Canaan real estate transfers recorded as sold between January 1, 2026, and March 31, 2026, provided by North Canaan Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market listings from Smart MLS and market statistics from Info-sparks. 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.

Send news tips to editor@lakevillejournal.com



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

From left in rear: Averi Spencer, Abigail Choi, Maya Gennings, Ashton Fodor and Logan Miles; Front: Nami Kahn, Piper Polley and Jacob Zylstra

Kent Center School students place in regional billboard design contest

By Ruth Epstein

Several Kent Center School students received honorable mentions in the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority's 19th annual billboard design contest.

This year's theme was "Don't Trash Textiles," and

students were tasked with creating billboard ads to teach residents that textiles don't belong in the trash. Local students created art that educated the public that clothing can be reused, repurposed, repaired or recycled separately at a designated collection site.

Third grader Jacob Zyl-

stra, seventh grader Abigail Choi and eighth grader Averi Spencer received honorable mention awards for their designs.

The school also held its own contest, and a group of first-place winners received ribbons and gift certificates to 45 on Main.

Motorcyclist, 78, injured in Lakeville crash on Salmon Kill Road

LAKEVILLE — A 78-year-old Windsor, Conn. man was injured Friday afternoon, April 24, after his motorcycle veered off the road and struck a fence post on Salmon Kill Road, according to state police.

Robert Pitocco was riding southbound on a BMW R1250 RT about 0.7 miles north of Farnum Road when the crash occurred

at approximately 1:19 p.m., police said. The 78-year-old lost control of the bike and hit a post from a barbed wire fence owned by the Town of Salisbury.

Pitocco was transported by Lifestar helicopter to Hartford Hospital with "suspected injuries."

The motorcycle was towed to Arnold's Garage in North Canaan.

Police issued Pitocco a written warning for failure to maintain his lane.

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Our Towns

Yale law professor challenges history at Salisbury Forum

By Ruth Epstein

SALISBURY – Akhil Reed Amar urged a crowd of about 400 to rethink long-held assumptions about American history during a Salisbury Forum talk Friday, April 24, at The Hotchkiss School.

Amar, a professor of constitutional law and political science at Yale University, spoke on “America at 250,” centering his remarks on the idea that all men are created equal.

“What we all have in common is history,” he told the audience, which marked a record turnout for the Forum. “What we have in common is the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.”

Amar lamented that children, including his own, are not reading history books. He quizzed the audience on when the Declaration of Independence was signed, correcting those who answered July 4, 1776. Independence was declared on July 2, the language of the document was agreed upon on July 4, and it was signed in August of that year.

He then asked the audience what they felt was the most important sentence in the Declaration. Numerous answers were called out, but Jonathan Costa, director of EdAdvance, identified it as “...that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states.”

“That’s the key – to be sovereign,” Amar said.

After declaring independence, members of the Second Continental Congress “pledged their lives and sacred honor to the cause,” said Amar, and if they lost, they were signing their death warrants.



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Akhil Reed Amar, the speaker at Friday's Salisbury Forum, hands out complimentary copies of his book 'Born Equal, Remaking America's Constitution, 1840-1920' to audience members.

“Just wars have just purposes. Reducing the ground to rubble is not winning a war.”

From the British perspective, the colonists were committing treason.

“All wars are supposed to have a purpose,” Amar said, which was met with snickers from crowd members reflecting on the present-day wars.

“Just wars have just purposes,” Amar clarified. “Reducing the ground to rubble is not winning a war.”

The professor also challenged assumptions about the Declaration's authors. Jefferson, Franklin and Adams were not the only ones responsible for writing the Declaration of Independence, he said.

“People lied,” he added. “Thomas Jefferson lied more than most politicians

– to friends, to Washington himself.”

Amar moved ahead to 1863 and Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, describing the 16th president as “an originalist” who rooted his argument in the Declaration of Independence and the idea that “all men are created equal.”

Touching on the subject of slavery, Amar said its abolition was first conceived by the Quakers in Philadelphia in 1775.

“Don't believe it was the British who first wanted to end slavery; it was the Americans,” he said. “We need to know what Americans did in its origins.”

Birthright citizenship is of special interest to Amar,

having worked on several court cases on the issue. He praised U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black – who served on the court from 1937 to 1971 and presided over several landmark cases involving equality – calling him an originalist. Amar also described himself as an originalist and held up a pocket copy of the Constitution that he always carries with him.

Amar closed by pointing to the constitutional amendments that abolished slavery, established birthright citizenship and expanded voting rights to women and Black Americans, reinforcing his central theme that equality is rooted in shared humanity.

Amar is the author of several books. His second in a series of three is titled “Born Equal: Remaking America's Constitution, 1840-1920.” Complimentary copies were given out to the audience.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Lev Sadeh (left) and Eli Sher read Shel Silverstein's 'It's Dark in Here,' at the Hunt Library Friday, April 24.

Falls Village celebrates National Poetry Month

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Nearly a dozen students from Lee H. Kellogg School crossed the lawn to the David M. Hunt Library on Friday, April 25, to celebrate National Poetry Month with readings of published and original works. Adults joined students for the all-ages event.

Library director Meg Sher welcomed attendees with a reading of Wendell Berry's “Peace of Wild Things.”

Among the student presenters, Lev Sadeh and Eli Sher delivered a crowd-favorite and spirited performance of Lewis Carroll's “Jabberwocky,” a nonsense poem from “Through the Looking-Glass.”

Eli followed with Shel Silverstein's “Sick.”

A group of students then shared their own short poems, touching on subjects ranging from school, a red squirrel, to imagining life as a wolf.

Kent Allyn, a 1961 graduate of Lee H. Kellogg, delivered a poem he wrote about a decade after leaving the school. The untitled poem was about the sights

and sounds of nature. In it, he asked readers if they had experienced moments like “water of a splashing brook laughing.”

The poem concluded: “Listen and you will hear Touch and you will feel Look and you will see.”

Community member Mark Gozonsky read his own poem, “I'm Sorry I Killed You,” about an unsuccessful attempt to grow squash.

John Holland, also a member of the community, recited William Carlos Williams' “The Red Wheelbarrow” and Ezra Pound's “In a Station of the Metro.”

Near the end of the program, Lev and Eli returned with a trick up their sleeves. They returned to the stage, barely suppressing grins, and read another Silverstein poem, “It's Dark in Here.”

The twist was the boys read it with each taking every other word.

Anna Pattison, the children's librarian, wrapped up with her own poem, which she said came to her in the shower.

It was a catalog of interesting things, ending with “all can be found at the library.”

After punishing winter, towns confront costly road repairs

By Debra A. Aleksinas

CORNWALL — Local road crews are tackling winter damage across the Northwest Corner, but with tight budgets, small staffs and rising costs, towns are feeling the strain as the spring repair season begins.

On a steep, narrow stretch of Dibble Hill Road, the smell of hot oil hung in the spring air as a crew worked methodically along the winding route, sealing over a winter's worth of cracks and scars left behind by snowplows, ice and relentless freeze-thaw cycles.

Last week, working alongside private contractors, Cornwall highway department crews began resurfacing sections of the roughly 1.5-mile scenic road, applying a thick base layer of asphalt to damaged pavement before coating it with stone chips and compacting the surface — a process known as chip sealing.

Road foreman James Vanicky, who has spent more than 38 years on the job, coordinated the multi-step resurfacing process on Dibble Hill Road as crews and outside contractors worked along the hilly, winding terrain.

Vanicky said that while potholes have been relatively minimal this season, the problem has been extensive cracking on roads due to frost heaves.

“When the frost heaves settle down, salt water seeps under the pavement making it soft, and then you have traffic pounding on it, and it creates cracks,” Vanicky said.

The scale of the work is compounded by limited

After 38 years, you kind of know what's under the roads. It's like tree rings. You can track its history.

ed staffing with 62 miles of roads and only three employees.

Budget pressures are also mounting as towns move from winter operations into repair season.

“This year our numbers came in at about \$75,000 for winter,” said Vanicky. “For the amount of miles that we have, that number was actually comparable to past years. But we're kind of running on fumes right now until July 1, when the new fiscal year begins,” he said.

Even so, careful planning helped stretch limited resources.

Experience, he added, plays a critical role in deciding where to focus limited funds. “After 38 years, you kind of know what's under the roads,” he said. “It's like tree rings. You can track its history.”

In neighboring Canaan, road foreman Tim Downs described similar conditions and budget challenges.

“The dirt roads took quite a hit this winter,” Downs said,

as did his equipment. “We had a lot of truck problems and spent a lot on repairs. At one point, we were down two trucks during a heavy storm.”

In North Canaan, which has 33 miles of town roads, road officials report widespread cracking caused by frost and freeze-thaw cycles.

“This winter was pretty tough,” said Mike Simmons of the North

Canaan Highway Department. “We had a lot more freezing underneath the roads, and some of them cracked quite a bit.”

Rising material costs are compounding the challenge. Salt usage alone pushed the town beyond its planned budget, Simmons said.

“Asphalt went up \$5 a ton,” he added.

Crews have begun patching roads as conditions allow, but larger repairs loom ahead, including work on Sand Road and Tobey Hill Road.

“The roads took a beating. Some of the paint is coming off the roads,” said Simmons, who noted that line repainting is sorely needed.

State roads, too, have seen widespread pavement damage.

According to the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT), as of late March, the state has seen a sharp increase in pothole reports, with 101 reported to the DOT in the first 16 days of March, surpassing the to-

tal from the entire month of March 2025.

As towns move deeper into the spring repair season, officials say the full extent of winter damage, and its financial toll, will continue to unfold.

“We have a lot of repairs to make,” said Downs.


And, as repair work ramps up, officials warn that spring is also one of the most dangerous times of year for road crews.

Gov. Ned Lamont recently urged drivers to slow down and stay alert. “A moment of distraction can have serious consequences,” he said.



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Cornwall highway department foreman James Vanicky, left, and David Dwyer from Seymour Sealing Service of Wallingford, check the viscosity of a layer of crack sealer during a 1.5-mile road resurfacing project on Dibble Hill Road last Friday.



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MEET AT ANY OF THESE LOCATIONS	
12:00 pm	FALLS VILLAGE Town Green
5:00 pm	SHARON Town Green
5:30 pm	CORNWALL Village Green by flag pole
5:30 pm	NORTH CANAAN Pavilion across from McDonald's
6:00 pm	SALISBURY Town Hall Memorials <i>In case of rain:</i> Salisbury Congregational Church

Our Towns

Sharon officials advance development plan, focus on downtown, walkability and safety

By Alec Linden

SHARON – Town officials are moving forward with an update to Sharon's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), a state-mandated document that will guide land use and growth over the next decade. At an April 22 meeting, the Planning and Zoning Commission focused on economic development – one of three core priorities identified for the update, alongside conservation and farmland preservation, and housing.

Officials and residents centered their discussion on the importance of preserving the unique tranquility of the downtown, with plans to accentuate the existing infrastructure and improve walkability. Some even proposed the creation of a farmer's market at Veterans Field.

The POCD, which is required to be updated every



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

The Sharon Farm Market grocery store is a centerpiece of the Sharon Shopping Center, which was proposed as the town's "uptown" commercial hub during an April 22 meeting.

decade, is due at the end of this year. It was last updated in 2006.

Janell Mullen, a local land use professional, has been consulting with the Commission, and meeting with local interest groups since last fall to gain input on how to modernize the plan.

The April 22 session fo-

cused on walkability, commerce, culture, infrastructure and safety. These items were selected based on results from a public survey distributed by Mullen and the P&Z Commission last winter. The town received 190 responses representing approximately 7.5% of Sharon's population.

Mullen asked the Com-

mission to propose terminology to describe the economic hubs in town. Stanley MacMillan Jr., longtime building inspector and fire marshal, proposed the distinction of an "uptown" and "downtown." Uptown, a term he used for the area when he was growing up in Sharon, would be the shopping center and sur-

roundings on Gay Street. He posited a "downtown" district as the stretch of Route 41 between the intersections of Hilltop Road and Route 4, including the Sharon Playhouse.

P&Z Vice Chair Betsy Hall stipulated that the residential homes along the Sharon Green should be largely protected from conversion to commercial ventures. "We don't want to be Salisbury, we don't want to be Kent," she said.

Mullen said the survey results indicated a desire to preserve what residents see as the tranquility of Sharon's village life.

She said that spurring "vitality," a key word in the survey results, doesn't necessarily mean more business, but "accentuating" existing businesses via walkability and community infrastructure that promotes people being out and about amongst the town's various hubs.

Safety, she said, is a key aspect of vibrant town life, which spurred conversation about parking issues on West Main Street and speeding through the center of town.

Several commissioners brought up the robust arts and crafts community in Sharon, and how to promote cultural programming. Mullen brought up the possibility of a farmers and makers market in Sharon, similar to seasonal fixtures in nearby Northwest Corner towns like Kent and Cornwall. Veterans Field was suggested as a possible location for such an event with access to restrooms, parking and children's play facilities.

Mullen and the Commission will resume the conversation at next month's planning session, scheduled for May 27, with a focus on conservation and farmland protection. As with all planning sessions, the meeting will be open to the public.

LEGAL NOTICES

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/. The application materials will be listed at 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. 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 ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING TOWN OF SALISBURY WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026 - HYBRID MEETING 7:30P.M.

The electors and others entitled to vote in Town meetings of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut, are hereby warned that the Annual Budget meeting of said Town will be held in person and via Zoom on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. at Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Salisbury, Connecticut for the following purposes:

1. To act upon the budget and any supplements thereto for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, which budget has been prepared and recommended by the Board of Finance; said budget is available for inspection

at the Town Clerk's office immediately.

2. To act upon the following items, which are customarily considered at the Annual Budget meeting for approval:

a. To authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow any sums of money they deem necessary to meet the Town's indebtedness and current or authorized expenditures, and to execute and deliver the Town's obligations therefore;

b. To see if the First Selectman will deliver on behalf of the Town all documents that may be necessary for carrying out any of the items in the budget.

c. To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and expend any funds allocated to the Town of Salisbury by the Connecticut Department of Transportation for repairs and maintenance of roads and bridges during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and extending to June 30, 2027, as recommended by the Board of Finance; and

d. To authorize the Board of Finance to transfer funds from surplus to cover shortages in various line items in the 2025-2026 budget.

3. To consider and act upon a resolution to set Wednesday, February 17, 2027, as the date for the Annual Town Meeting.

4. To consider and act upon a resolution to set Wednesday, May 12, 2027 as the date for the Annual Budget Meeting

5. To consider and act upon the adoption of an ordinance providing that sealed bidding will not be required for contracts or purchases having a value less than \$35,000. A copy of the proposed ordinance will be available for inspection in the Office of the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

Dated at Salisbury, Connecticut this 24th day of April, 2026. Curtis G. Rand, First Selectman

Barrett Prinz, Selectman Katherine Kiefer, Selectman Join the webinar: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81009998770?pwd=Zy8dNVVm0Qe9H15FR626YznvnFKgjs7.1> Webinar ID: 810 0999 8770 Passcode: 200239 Join via audio:

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

04-30-26

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE TOWN OF SHARON

The Town of Sharon at Town Meeting held on April 16 th, 2026, voted to adopt the Ordinance pertaining to join the Northwest Resource Recovery Authority.

The full text of this ordinance is on file with the Sharon Town Clerk, where a copy can be obtained.

This document is prepared for the benefit of the public, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation. This document does not represent the intent of the legislative body of the Town of Sharon for any purpose. (CGS - 157).

This change to take effect fifteen days from publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Sharon. 04-22-26

Submitted by: Bianca DelTufo Sharon Town Clerk 04-30-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF IVAN POLLAK Late of Cornwall (26-00132)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated April 7, 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: Susan Linder c/o Tatiana Michelle Fonseca Dasil VA, Cohen and Wolf, P.C., 1115 Broad Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604 Megan M. Foley Clerk 04-30-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF JOSEPH H. ELLIS Late of Cornwall (26-00050)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated April 7, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may

05-07-26

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

The fiduciary is: Matthew J. Allain c/o Leo Wealth, LLC 379 Thomall Street Floor 9, Suite 9 Edison, NJ 08837 Megan M. Foley Clerk 04-30-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF AUSTIN HOWARD BARNEY Late of Sharon (26-00031)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated April 9, 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 fiduciaries are: Darlene Melody Harzdog c/o Edward G Mcananey Mcananey & Mcananey 219 Suffield Village Suffield, CT 06078 Margaret Ann Gdovin c/o Edward G Mcananey Mcananey & Mcananey 219 Suffield Village Suffield, CT 06078 Megan M. Foley Clerk 04-30-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF GRACE M. MILLER Late of North Canaan (26-00175)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated April 16, 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: Richard E. Miller c/o Linda M Patz Drury, Patz & Citrin, LLP 7 Church Street P.O. Box 101 Canaan, CT 06018 Megan M. Foley Clerk 04-30-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF RALPH H. STANTON,

JR Late of North Canaan (26-00120)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated April 16, 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: Patricia G. Stanton c/o Emily D Vail Vail & Vail, LLC 5 Academy Street PO Box 568 Salisbury, CT 06068 Megan M. Foley Clerk 04-30-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF CHARLES J. LEMMEN Late of North Canaan AKA Charles Jerome Lemmen (26-00092)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated April 14, 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: Nicola Whitley c/o Stephen K Gellman Shipman & Goodwin LLP, One Constitution Plaza Hartford, CT 06103 Megan M. Foley Clerk 04-30-26

WARNING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING - TOWN OF SHARON MAY 8, 2026

The legal voters of the Town of Sharon and those entitled to vote in meetings of said Town are hereby warned and notified that the Annual Town Meeting concerning the budget and other items of said Town, will be held at the Sharon Town Hall, 63 Main Street, on Friday, May 8, 2026 at 6:00 PM for the following purposes:

1. To see what action the Town will take for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027,

regarding the following, as approved by the Board of Finance:

a. To adopt the annual budget of the Town of Sharon. Copies are available at Town Hall and on the Website

2. To see what action the Town will take for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 regarding the following as approved by the Board of Finance:

a. To authorize the acceptance and expenditure of TOWN AID ROAD funds for the maintenance, construction and reconstruction of our Town roads and bridges.

b. To authorize expenditures of up to \$31,120.00 from the Sharon Cemetery Fund.

c. To authorize the acceptance and expenditure of any state, federal or other funds or grants for educational purposes.

d. To authorize the expenditure of up to \$1,000.00 in interest from the Virginia Brown Fund for Nature's Classroom.

e. To authorize the acceptance and expenditure of any funds or grants for general municipal purposes.

f. To authorize the expenditures of up to \$5,000.00 from the 67 Main Street Account for general maintenance of that building.

g. To authorize the expenditures of up to \$349,455.00 from the Equipment Replacement Account for a John Deere Backhoe (\$157,776); Ford F-600 (\$118,299); Ford-150 (\$49,120); Utility Trailer (\$10,820); Landscape Trailer (\$5,095); and Snow Plow (\$8,345).

3. To see what action the Town will take to adopt the proposed Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan, as approved by the Board of Finance. Copies are available at the Town Hall and on the Website.

Dated at Sharon, Connecticut this 28th of April 2026.

SELECTMEN OF THE TOWN OF SHARON Casey T. Flanagan Lynn S. Kearcher John G. Brett 04-30-26

OUR TOWNS



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Jody Bronson (standing) and Denny Jacobs discuss all things maple syrup at Maple Fest on Saturday, April 25.

Cool weather extends syrup season in Falls Village for Maple Fest

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Maple syrup was the primary focus on a chilly morning, Saturday, April 25, as sweet steam could be seen – and smelled – over the town green during the village's annual Maple Fest.

Three of the town's maple syrup operations were represented – Wangum Valley, run by Jody and Jean Bronson; Whiting Brook Farm, operated by the Jacobs family; and Acer Creek Farm, owned by the Gallagher family.

The prime spot to be was near the repurposed oil drum that Denny Jacobs converted into a propane-fueled maple syrup boiler. Using frozen syrup that was about half-finished and left over from the spring's production, Jacobs had a small saucepan filled with sap handy in case the mixture needed topping up.

As he chatted with fellow syrup maker Jody Bronson – and whoever else wandered by – Jacobs kept a watchful eye on the thermometer in the boiling syrup.

This year, Whiting Brook Farm collected 1,700 gallons of sap and produced 35 gallons of syrup.

Conversation turned to how best to store the finished product before bottling. Bronson said plastic jugs can darken the syrup over time,

while glass containers sometimes result in a lighter color. The best containers are made of tin, he said, which have the least impact, though they are no longer common in retail and must be sourced from wholesalers.

At the Center on Main, Susan Scherf from the Institute of American Indian Studies in Washington, Connecticut, gave a presentation on how Native Americans used maple sap.

Rather than boiling it into syrup, Scherf said, they produced maple sugar, sometimes mixing it with dried corn for a low-bulk, high-energy snack. Maple sugar could also be used to make alcohol and vinegar.

She added that Native Americans often used containers made of fire-resistant birch bark to boil their sap, and there is archaeological evidence of using a moose hide for the same purpose.

Back on the Green, local band Northwest Passage began playing around 11 a.m., as visitors, many of whom had filled up on pancakes and waffles with real maple syrup at the Falls Village Cafe, lingered in the cool air.

The band consists of Ed Thorney (harmonica, vocals), Rachell Gall aka "The Falls Village Fiddler" on violin and vocals, Greg Reiss on guitar and lead vocals, and Scott Cameron on guitar.

AMENIA — Barbara Ann Murphy, 93, passed away peacefully, leaving behind a legacy of faith, devotion, and unwavering love for her family. Born on Jan. 5, 1933, in Poughkeepsie, New York, Barbara was the daughter of Wallace and Catherine Schaffer. She dedicated her early life to caring for others, graduating from St. Francis School of Nursing in Poughkeepsie and later earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. Her calling to serve led her to the Army Nurse Corps, where she proudly served as a First Lieutenant during the Korean Conflict, stationed at Walter Reed Hospital. It was through her work as a nurse that Barbara's life took a beautiful turn; she met her future husband, William E.P. Murphy, while caring for him as a patient at St. Francis Hospital. Their love story blossomed into a marriage that began on Sept. 20, 1958, and endured until his passing in 2000.

Barbara was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother who built a life centered on faith, family, and service. After raising her children, she returned to nursing at the Wassica Developmental Center, where she worked until her retirement in 1990. She also served her community as a member of the Amenia Fire Company, volunteering as an EMT and offering care and comfort to those in need. Service was not just her profes-

sion, it was a defining part of who she was. She spent over 50 years in Amenia, New York, a place she proudly called home before moving to Geer Village in Canaan, Connecticut in 2013.

A deeply devout Catholic, Barbara lived her faith daily. She was a dedicated member of Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia, faithfully attending daily Mass and serving as a lector. Her commitment to her faith extended beyond routine; it was a guiding force in her life, one she instilled in her children and grandchildren. Whether it meant finding a church in an airport during travels or sharing quiet moments of reflection, she ensured that faith remained at the center of family life.

Barbara found joy in life's simple and meaningful pleasures. She was an avid traveler, exploring Europe and enjoying riverboat cruises with her beloved husband Bill. After his passing, she continued her adventures with her sisters-in-law, embracing the world with curiosity and gratitude. At home, she was rarely without a book in hand, a voracious reader who found comfort and joy in stories.

She will be remembered for her wisdom, her steady presence, and her ability to find joy in laughter, especially a good joke, often shared

and passed along from others. Above all, she will be remembered for her deep love of family, her strength, and the values she lived by every day.

Barbara is survived by her children; Christopher Murphy (Tamara) of Clermont, Florida, Maureen Morley (Thomas) of Lake Ariel, Pennsylvania, Eileen Ehlers (Richard) of Olathe, Kansas, Leah Rost (Ernest) of Brick, New Jersey, and William Murphy, Jr. (Mary) of Amenia, New York. She also leaves behind her cherished grandchildren; Richard Ehlers, Jr., Elyse Colon, Hillary, Lauren and Kurt Bennett, William Rost, Abbey, Krista and Liam Murphy, and Owen and Connor Lynch, along with ten great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister-in-law; Veronica Rosen and her husband Ron of Poughkeepsie, New York, and Sandra Murphy of Simpsonville, South Carolina, as

well as many beloved nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband, William E.P. Murphy, her grandson, Gregory Rost in 2018, and her sister, Joan Post in 2017.

Barbara's life was a testament to faith, service, and love, a life well-lived and deeply cherished by all who knew her.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at Immaculate Conception Church, 4 Lavelle Road, Amenia, NY. Burial followed at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Amenia, NY, with Standard Military Army Honors. Memorial contributions may be made to Immaculate Conception Church, 4 Lavelle Road, Amenia, NY 12501. To send an online condolence to the family or to plant a tree in Barbara's memory, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com Arrangements have been entrusted to Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546.



Ronald W. Murphy Jr.

MILLERTON — Ronald W. Murphy Jr., passed away peacefully on April 25, 2026, at his home in North Carolina, with his family at his side, leaving behind a legacy of love, dedication, and strength. He was born April 3, 1960, to Ronald W. Sr. and Janet Murphy. Ron lived in Millerton, New York before recently moving to North Carolina to enjoy the warmer southern weather. He lived a life full of passion for his family and the simple joys that brought him happiness.

Ron is survived by his loving wife, Beth Polanis-Murphy, who remains

at home; his children, Kelly Kilmer (Walter), John Murphy, Bobby Murphy (Danielle), and Betsy Toth (Steve); stepdaughter, Sara Murali; and his sister, Inez Tierney. He was a proud and cherished grandfather to Victoria, Dylan, Gemini, Eric, Ronan, Morgan, Alex, Gage, Mira, Amelia, Carter and great grandfather to Colton and Gunner.

Ron was predeceased by his first wife, Jane Murphy in 2012; his parents, Ronald Sr. and Janet Murphy and his granddaughter, Karlene Ann Golden.

Ron had a deep love for classic cars and motorcycles. Whether he was restoring, admiring, buying/selling or simply talking about them, they brought him great joy. He was also a lifetime member of the Millerton Volunteer Fire Department.

Ron was never shy about sharing his advice, had a one-of-a-kind sense of humor, a joke to tell, and a truly big-hearted nature. His presence will be deeply missed but forever cherished by all who knew him.

Honoring his wishes, services will be private, with a quiet graveside service for family at Irondale Cemetery in Millerton, New York. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the National Kidney Foundation at 10286 Staples Mill Rd., Box 814 Glen Allen Virginia, 23060. To send an online condolence to the family or to plant a tree in Ron's memory, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546.

Send obituaries to lakevillejournal.com

OBITUARIES

Barbara Ann Murphy

Worship Services Week of May 3, 2026	
<p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 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</p>	<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 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</p>
<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 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 trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons Sunday, May 10 at 10:30 a.m. Discussion on Near Death Experiences For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC 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 860-824-7232</p>	<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 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 YouTube www.stjohnssalisbury.org</p>
<p>FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 a.m. Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE 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</p>
<p>Congregation Beth David A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly - Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 info@congbethdavid.org</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL 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</p>
<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 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</p>	<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall 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</p>
<p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 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</p>	<p>St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thesmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 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 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>
<p>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 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</p>	<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 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!</p>
<p>Sharon Congregational 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</p>	
<p>Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutches Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M. 518-789-3138</p>	

SYMPOSIUM

Continued from Page A1

A Berkshire School student spoke about a controversial issue in her hometown of Great Barrington, Mass., where residents held differing views about a street named Squaw Peak Road. In 2022, the town voted to rename it Woodland Hill Road after concerns that the original name was a racist and sexist slur against Indigenous people.

A long-held belief was challenged in a video produced by HVRHS students titled "Searching for Chief Waramaug," which examines local Native American legends, including that of Princess Lillinonah.

The story recounts the legend of Princess Lillinonah, who in the 1700s fell in love with a white man. He stayed with her in New Milford until winter, then left, promising to return. When he did not, her father arranged for her to marry within the tribe. Before the wedding, Lillinonah set out in a canoe toward the Great Falls to take her own life. At

the last moment, her lover returned and leapt into the water so they would perish together.

"It never happened," declared Darlene Kascak, education director at the American Institute of American Indian Studies. "It was fabricated. It was a Romeo and Juliet story; a way white colonizers depicted Native Americans. They romanticized Indigenous people who endured racism in order to impose Western standards."

HVRHS students also shared a video about the two summers Martin Luther King Jr. spent in Simsbury working on a tobacco farm. He was there in 1944 and 1947 and later credited that time with planting the seed for a career in divinity. He was invited to sing in a church choir and was amazed that he, as a Black person, was welcomed into a white congregation.

Salisbury School students submitted a video on midwifery and one about Austin Reed, a Black indentured

servant who spent most of his life in prison. Reed wrote a memoir in the 1850s that is considered to be the earliest known prison memoir by an African-American writer.

An expert panel of educators – including Hasan Kwame Jeffries, associate professor of history at The Ohio State University and brother of Hakeem Jeffries; Christina Proenza-Cole, lecturer for American Studies at the University of Virginia; and Wunneanatsu Lamb-Cason, assistant director of Native American and Indigenous Studies Initiative at Brown University – discussed the highlights of each presentation.

Troutbeck is historic in its own right – a 45-acre estate and hotel built in 1765. Originally a private home, it became a retreat for literary figures such as Emerson and Thoreau. Under Col. Joel Spingarn, it evolved into a gathering space for civil rights activists including W. E.B. Du Bois, Sinclair Lewis and Langston Hughes.

EDITORIAL

A ballroom, really?

Saturday's shooting targeted an event designed to defend the First Amendment freedoms Donald Trump has spent years undermining — labeling the press as “the enemy of the people”. His takeaway? Washington needs a new ballroom. Sen. Lindsey Graham agreed, “It's very difficult to have a bunch of important people in the same place unless it's really, really secure.”

This from a president who, within hours of his inauguration, shut down the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention and has since ordered the rollback of background checks, defunded community safety programs, and made it easier to put weapons in dangerous hands.

So far this year, 69 children under 12 and 262 teenagers have been killed by gun violence — a number that grew since this was written. Firearms have been the leading cause of death for Americans ages 1 to 19 every year since 2020.

One man with a gun disrupted a dinner. Hundreds of children are dead.

The president's solution? Build himself a ballroom. Call it a bunker if it helps.



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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Send to publisher@lakevillejournal.com Include name, town and phone number. Keep letters to 500 words or less.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Response to 'Confronting evil'

Gentlemen: Your letter lays out the historical facts clearly and accurately. There is no way to excuse or condone the behavior you chronicle. I agree with your opening paragraph but am troubled by the implication that this war could not be avoided.

Perhaps more diplomacy would have been the equivalent of appeasement but I am uncertain.

Operation Midnight Hammer on June 22, 2025 failed to solve the problem. The question raised then and again now is the gray area regarding presidential authority to engage in war without congressional approval. History illustrates the uncertain outcomes of similar conflicts. It is too early to judge the wisdom of the choices made by our current administration. I shared your letter with Perplexity, an AI provider.

Perplexity says: “The letter presents the war as the unavoidable price of finally confronting a malevolent regime, which is a coherent argument — but it omits the role that specific policy choices (particularly the 2018 JCPOA withdrawal) played in accelerating the nuclear crisis it describes. Whether war was truly unavoidable, or whether different diplomacy could have prevented it, depends heavily on assumptions about Iranian intentions that remain genuinely debated among serious foreign policy thinkers.”

The letter is an opinion piece by concerned citizens, not a policy analysis — so it argues a point of view rather than weighing all the evidence. That is entirely legitimate, but a reader should be aware they are getting one side of a complex argument.”

“The Case That War Was Unavoidable”

Perplexity

- Iran repeatedly rebuffed diplomatic overtures across multiple administrations — Carter, Reagan, Clinton, Obama, Trump — suggesting no negotiated solution was achievable
- Iran continued enrich-

ing uranium even during the JCPOA period, and after the U.S. withdrew in 2018, accelerated its program to the point of being weeks away from weapons-grade material

- The letter's implicit argument is that each concession or delay only bought Iran more time to build missiles, fund proxies, and approach nuclear capability — making eventual confrontation more dangerous, not less

- Some serious analysts argue that a nuclear-armed Iran would have been permanently destabilizing, making a conventional war now preferable to nuclear deterrence under a hostile theocracy”

“The Case That War Could Have Been Avoided”

Perplexity

- The JCPOA (2015 nuclear deal) was working — IAEA inspectors confirmed Iran was in compliance when the U.S. unilaterally withdrew in 2018. Many foreign policy experts argue that staying in the deal, or negotiating a stronger one, offered a credible non-military path

- The Trump administration's withdrawal from the JCPOA directly triggered Iran's uranium acceleration — the crisis the letter describes was in part a consequence of that decision, not an inevitability

- Coercive diplomacy backed by sanctions had demonstrably constrained Iranian behavior at various points; critics argue it was never given sufficient time or consistency

- Several of Iran's most aggressive proxy actions (the October 7 attack, Hezbollah's rocket campaign) were responses to specific events — they were not simply predetermined
- Historical precedent: the U.S. reached arms agreements with the Soviet Union despite profound ideological hostility, suggesting negotiated coexistence with adversarial regimes is possible”

Philip V. Oppenheimer Lakeville

America's wartime economy

In April, the White House asked Congress for \$1.5 trillion more in defense spending for 2027. This is a 40% increase over the Pentagon's spending in fiscal year 2026. Half the funding will come from cuts to education, housing, and health programs. Welcome to the war economy.

While the stock market celebrates another two-week extension of a cease-fire between the U.S. and Iran, the wars are not over. There will be more, in my opinion, and preparing for them will cost money. The Pentagon needs \$4.5 billion to replenish its Tomahawk cruise missile stockpile. The Navy wants more boats, and the \$250 million in planes and helicopters we lost rescuing two downed flyers need to be replaced.

As more military resources disappear, the need to replace them grows. That never-ending story fuels a wartime economy. The money earmarked for defense may not be enough. At a private lunch last week, according to the New York Times, the

THE RETIRED INVESTOR BILL SCHMICK

president said we need to prioritize military protection. Otherwise, he said in a since-deleted video, the country could not continue to shoulder the financial burden of services including day care, Medicare, and Medicaid.

For those, like my daughter, who vaguely remember the term “wartime economy” from their history books, let me start with a definition. A wartime economy is an economic system that is reorganized by a nation to prioritize military production and resource allocation during periods of armed conflict.

What that means is that all the resources, including production, distribution, and financial systems, are adjusted to support military efforts while maintaining overall economic stability. If you are old enough to remember, it can and did

mean rationing, price controls, centralized planning, inflation, and deficit spending here in the U.S.

For Americans, World War II is usually the go-to example of a wartime economy. Defense spending surged from 1.6% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1940 to over 40% four years later. By the end of the war, that number climbed to 119% of GDP. Non-military auto production was halted. Steel, rubber, and aluminum were rationed. Price controls artificially suppressed inflation, and black markets in everything from food to fuel proliferated.

Historians say this wartime economy pulled the U.S. out of the Great Depression. It sped up GDP growth and built the military-industrial complex. The war and draft created a job boom. By 1944, unemployment fell below 1%, the lowest ever. Women joined the workforce in large numbers. War also sparked major advances: radar, jet engines, computers, medicine, and the nuclear bomb.

All this is true; however, that is not the whole story. Under the hood, both private consumption and investment lagged badly. Civilian living standards were lower during the war than in 1940. That was before rationing and

quality deterioration.

Much of wartime economic growth came at the private sector's expense. Tanks, ammunition, ships, and planes—many lost in combat—could have built schools, hospitals, housing, or consumer goods. Instead, Americans waited in line for basics like gasoline, meat, and shoes. The national debt more than doubled as a share of GDP during the war.

Could we see the same results 80 years later? It seems doubtful. War may not deliver the benefits people expect. War spending gives an output boost, and we may fight for a “good cause,” whatever that means now. Yet do not expect the same job gains as before.

Next week, I will address the inflationary fallout from wartime economies and how countries worldwide are being forced to alter their own economies due to shifting post-war strategic alliances and geopolitics.

Bill Schmick is a founding partner of Onota Partners, Inc., in the Berkshires. Bill's forecasts and opinions are purely his own and do not necessarily represent the views of Onota Partners, Inc. (OPI). None of his commentary is or should be considered investment advice.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Omissions in 'surging gas prices' article

Last week's front-page article, “Surging gas prices stretch local budgets,” was timely and certainly of interest to everyone. However, I noted two obvious omissions. One, there was no mention of local governments adjusting their budgets by reducing spending as most families must do when confronted by rising prices in the face of fixed incomes. When costs rise for essential commodities such as gasoline, the logical response is to temporarily cut back on spending for non-essential things like entertainment and eating out, or postponing major purchases. The economy is cyclical and the cost of gasoline fluctuates. It will not remain high forever. Budgets can always be readjusted when things return to what passes for normal — for families and local governments, alike.

Speaking of which, the present cost of gasoline has risen from approximately \$3.00 a gallon a year ago to about \$4.00 presently. This

is due to our current conflict with Iran, something which began 47 years ago. The Iranian mullahs declared war on us but we never responded. Every president just kicked the can down the road, expecting a successor to deal with it. “It,” of course, was the threat of a nuclear attack as soon as they completed a weapon to use. They got closer and closer until President Trump moved preemptively to eliminate the threat. Geopolitics are complicated and things do not get resolved overnight. The rest of us need to practice patience.

I noted one more thing in the article. While the cost of a gallon of gasoline rose from \$3.00 to its current \$4.00 in the past year, nowhere in was it mentioned that the average weekly retail gasoline price hit an all-time high of \$5.07 a gallon in 2022 when Joseph Biden was President. Most people seem to have selective amnesia.

Richard Kopec Sharon

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Viewpoint

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

125 years ago —
April 1901

The Canaan creamery has been incorporated with a capitalization of \$50,000 and is doing an extensive business. They have recently added the manufacture of fancy cheese for which they have large advance orders.

It is said that a steam road will be built from Canaan to Clayton by the Consolidated. It is said that a large brick making plant will be erected at Clayton on the lands of the White Brick and Cotta Co.

The bill incorporating the Falls Village Light and Water Co. was passed in the Senate April 24th. The legislature also passed a bill making poultry stealing punishable by a fine of not more than \$10, or imprisonment for not more than two years, or both.

100 years ago —
April 1926

Maple Tree Inn, the former Shannon Sanitarium at Falls Village, now owned by Samuel Weiner, was completely destroyed by fire early this morning. When the fire was first discovered it was apparent that the building was past saving and no outside help was called, the Falls Village fire company handling the affair alone.

Some of the women claim that it is almost impossible to buy a new spring hat unless they bob their hair, as everything in the millinery is designed for bobbed hair. There are still a few ladies who continue to retain "woman's crowning glory" but they appear to be in the minority. One of them remarks that the present style of dress reminds one of an aviator or a deep sea diver.

50 years ago —
April 1976

There's fresh evidence this week that neighborliness is alive and well in Salisbury. A local farmer with a bad back has his fields all plowed and harrowed, thanks to a chance remark dropped at a dinner meeting. Willard Myers, who operates a rented farm on Weatogue Road, is the afflicted farmer, and his benefactors were students from the vocational agriculture program at the Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Two vo-ag teachers at the HVRHS heard Myers mention his back problems at a Young Farmer organization dinner last Thursday night. From Friday morning through Sunday, not in the least discouraged by the foul weather, shifts of vo-ag students worked to prepare Myers' fields for planting. In all, nine young men and women labored under the direction of teachers Walter Burcroff and George Wheeler, who took turns supervising during their time off from official duties, and student teacher Becky Brickell of Goshen. Mrs. Myers said Monday they accomplished in three days what would normally have taken her husband three weeks.

Residents of Lakeville will have to rely for a while on their stomachs and their watches to tell them when to eat lunch. The noon whistle will not be heard for an indefinite length of time, Fire Chief Peter Brazzale said Monday night. A part in the clock mechanism needs to be replaced and the 12 o'clock signal will be out of commission until the new piece arrives. A similar situation existed for

several weeks two years ago. The same part of the timing device had to be replaced then too. Brazzale said the fire siren will continue to work as usual. Only the noon blast will be affected.

CANAAN — The dramatic end of an 1873 attempt to cross the Atlantic Ocean by air was described last Wednesday to the members of the Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society. Society president Oliver Eldridge told of the end of the flight of the Graphic balloon on Oct. 6, 1873 after a stormy passage over Canaan Mountain. The balloon was forced down on Lower Road in East Canaan after a flight from New York City. The adventure had been sponsored by the New York Daily Graphic newspaper. A crew of three, Washington H. Donaldson, Alfred Ford and George A. Lunt, set out from Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, at 6 a.m. in a brave attempt to reach Europe by air. They were traveling in a lifeboat suspended beneath a balloon 160 feet high, 110 feet in diameter and with a lifting capacity of 600,000 cubic feet of gas. The balloon crossed Long Island Sound, flew over Westchester County and up over Bethel, Conn. The winds abruptly changed and the craft drifted over Bridgeport, New Haven and Waterbury before traveling northwest to the Canaan vicinity. It passed so close to the earth in Goshen that the crew was able to converse with those on the ground. They declined invitations to stop for a drink of cider but left a card certifying that the balloon had been in the region.

25 years ago —
April 2001

SALISBURY — Kathleen Lauretano testified before state legislators last week and told them abuses she has seen by Connecticut State Police in recent years "have radically altered my faith in my own profession and confirmed me in the belief that no police department should be allowed to police itself." Although she has been a state trooper since 1982, Mrs. Lauretano told members of the judiciary committee of the State House of Representatives and Senate at an April 16 hearing in Hartford, "I do not ... represent the state police today." A civilian oversight committee is needed to police the police, she told legislators, who are considering a bill that would require such supervision for municipal police forces. "I am here to advocate that it be amended to include the state police," she said.

CORNWALL — If any residents are thinking about donating any money to the town, a new proposed endowment fund could make it easier to contribute and also make the gift go farther. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway presented a legal prospectus to the Board of Finance at its meeting Thursday night, outlining the possible endowment. "It would allow the town, when we receive gifts, to invest them in different ways than we can right now," Mr. Ridgway said. A recent \$50,000 donation by Mary Schiefflin's estate, designated for recreation purposes, will be used to start the fund.

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



PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

Salisbury from above

AI tax targets the wrong signal

CT MIRROR/
VIEWPOINT
REVANA SHARFUDDIN

As Connecticut lawmakers debate Senate Bill 515, they are asking a question more states will soon face: As artificial intelligence changes work, what happens to workers whose jobs change or disappear?

The bill would create a "workforce and productivity gap" surcharge. If a company's payroll falls while each remaining worker appears to produce more, the state could impose a new tax. Companies that keep staffing steady and use "collaborative technology" meant to help workers rather than replace them would be exempt.

That sounds like a way to protect workers. But it would likely do more harm than good for Connecticut workers over time. The bill directs the state to design a surcharge around a "productivity gap," meaning firms could be taxed if they appear more productive while employing fewer workers.

The bill does not specify how this would be measured, but in practice such approaches rely on some version of falling payroll alongside steady or rising revenue. Those figures move for many reasons other than technology replacing workers, including reorganization, shifts in product mix, or higher prices. The result is a policy that risks taxing adjustment rather than harm, discouraging investment and slowing the wage growth that usually comes with a more productive economy.

A drop in payroll does not have one meaning. It can reflect weaker demand for a company's product, a shift toward different lines of business, work moving to contractors or other locations, or better internal organization. In all of those cases, measured output per worker can rise. The bill treats those very different situations as if they were the same.

Technology usually reshapes tasks before it eliminates entire jobs. Despite common claims, firms do not typically replace an occupation all at once. They change pieces of work. Some tasks disappear, some be-

come more valuable, and new ones emerge. The real question is not whether a firm has fewer workers than it did three years ago. It is whether workers are moving into more valuable roles as the work itself changes.

The bill tries to account for that by rewarding "collaborative technology," meaning technology that helps workers do their jobs instead of simply replacing them. The instinct is sound. The trouble is that the line is hard to observe from the outside. The same software can reduce the need for some roles while raising the value of others. A payroll statistic cannot tell you which is happening.

What the policy can do is change behavior. If firms need to stay close to an old staffing baseline to avoid a surcharge, many will manage to that line. They may delay layoffs, change hiring plans, or move work outside payroll. That may make the numbers look better without leaving workers better off.

There is a second problem, and it goes straight to workers' pocketbooks. When firms face unclear rules around new technology, they hold back on investment. That means less experimentation, slower adoption, and weaker productivity growth. Over time, weaker productivity growth usually means weaker wage growth.

There is also a broader economic point. When technology makes a service cheaper, people often use more of it. Economists call this Jevons paradox. Lower-cost AI legal research, for example, can reduce the time spent on each task while expanding demand for legal services overall. A tax built around preserving current payroll pushes in the opposite direction. It nudges firms to hold onto existing roles instead of helping workers move into higher-value work, often in different roles, firms, or sectors.

A functioning labor market depends on exactly this kind of movement. Workers change jobs. Firms expand and contract. New tasks show up in places the old jobs did not. A policy that tries to hold the labor market still ends up reducing opportunity.

None of this diminishes the concern that motivates the proposal. If the goal is to support workers through these changes, the most direct tools remain the most reliable. Strengthening training and career mobility does more than penalizing firms based on imperfect signals. It helps workers move into the new roles that technology creates. Policy can also do more to align incentives. Today, it is often easier to expense in-

vestment in machines than investment in people. Allowing immediate expensing of employer-provided training would put worker skill development on similar footing. Connecticut largely follows federal rules here, so progress would require action at both levels.

Connecticut's proposal recognizes a real challenge. But treating lower payroll as clear evidence of harmful displacement is too blunt for a dynamic economy. The goal should not be to freeze today's jobs in place. It should be to help workers move into better ones over time.

Revana Sharfuddin is a research fellow at the Mercatus Center's Labor Policy Project at George Mason University.

BEAR WATCH



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Bears return to Salisbury

Salisbury resident Tim Moyer captured recent black bear activity near his property, noting it was his first sighting of the season.

A second bear appeared briefly, he said, but "didn't stay around for too long."

The sighting occurred on Prospect Mountain Road, near the Salisbury Garden and Landscaping Center, and reflects a broader uptick in black bear sightings across the Northwest Corner this spring.

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Just returned from the weekend at the Cape with the kids and I have to recommend booking a trip with Monomoy Island Excursions based in Harwich Port. We took the first run of the season and it was fantastic to see the seals on the protected island and all the sea birds, not to mention the lighthouses. The captain's daughter was the naturalist, who was great in going over the life cycles of the seals and other wildlife, so it proved to be both educational and a grand adventure. For more information, please visit: monomoysealcruise.com/.



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Our Towns

Kent Memorial Library breaks ground on expansion

"Libraries are more important than ever. Algorithms just play to your proclivities. Libraries are different."
Governor Ned Lamont

By Ruth Epstein

KENT – A ceremonial groundbreaking was held at Kent Memorial Library on Saturday, April 25, drawing community members and local leaders to celebrate its expansion and renovations, which are already underway.

Guest speakers, including Gov. Ned Lamont and U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes, said libraries today serve a broader role than in the past, functioning as community hubs as well as places for books.

The project has been funded by a \$2 million construction grant from the Connecticut State Library, along with \$5 million raised locally through private donations, according to Executive Director Sarah Marshall. Construction is expected to be completed next year.

The small brick building on Main Street dates back to 1922, with additions made in 1958 and in 1994. The current plan calls for upgrading the existing building and connecting it to the adjacent former firehouse, creating additional space for library functions and public events.

Sam Callaway, an architect who has been consulting with library board members on the project for many years, called the library "the backbone of the community." He noted that modern libraries have evolved into community centers.

"We are here today to celebrate the start of construction of additions and alterations to the library, which will bring its facilities into the present and the future," Callaway said.

He also praised the 23-member board and staff, saying their efforts made the project possible.

Board Vice President Janet Rivkin shared that when the library turned 100 in 2022, so did her husband, Larry. A devoted supporter, he made a donation in their honor that helped launch the project's fundraising campaign.

"He passed away just as we got started," she said.

Lamont also shared his love of libraries in modern times.

"Libraries are more important than ever," he said. "Algorithms just play to your proclivities. Libraries are different. They can give you different perspectives. Take books seriously. Put down



your phones. To the next generation, this library is yours."

Hayes, D-5th District, said the timing of the event was appropriate since it was the end of Library Week.

Meanwhile, State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) said the project reflects the community's commitment to meeting the town's evolving needs.

Following the ceremony, attendees were invited to the temporary library at 10-12 Landmark Lane for refreshments.



PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Top from left: Library director Sarah Marshall, U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes, State Rep. (D-64) Maria Horn, and Gov. Ned Lamont speak at the groundbreaking ceremony for Kent Memorial Library's renovations and expansion.

Putting down roots

Northwest Corner towns celebrate Arbor Day



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Kent Center School kindergartner Landon Sensenbrenner shovels dirt onto the newly planted flowering dogwood tree Friday, April 24.

Kent students plant, share eco-projects

By Ruth Epstein

KENT — Christopher Martin, a former high school teacher who moved to town five years ago, spends his time volunteering at Kent Center School — and recently offered a spot on his Elizabeth Street lawn as the site for an Arbor Day tree planting.

The entire school walked to Martin's home Friday, where fifth- and sixth-grade science teacher Christopher Rose spoke about the flowering dogwood that will soon blossom there. He pointed to another mature dogwood down the street that towers over houses, noting that some day the little one being planted will be that size.

A representative from each class stepped forward to pour a shovelful of dirt into the planting, which was made possible through the Kent Conservation Commission and the Kent Garden Club.

Back at school, students,

staff and guests gathered in the gym for the annual Arbor Day celebration featuring projects involving music, art and recycling. Fifth-graders talked about the history of Arbor Day, noting that Birdsey Grant Northrup, a Kent native, founded the state's observance. The first celebration was held in 1887. In 1970, President Richard Nixon declared the last Friday in April as National Arbor Day.

Eighth-grade students unveiled their environmentally-themed murals, the school joined in song and winners of a billboard design contest sponsored by Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority were announced.

Teacher Ane Starr reported that the school had collected 1,000 pounds of plastic fill over the year. The effort earned the school a bench made from recycled plastic.

"What an accomplishment," she said. "We're taking care of our earth not just for today, but every day."

North Canaan celebrates with poetry and song

By Alec Linden

NORTH CANAAN — The North Canaan Elementary School's arboretum was expanded yet again on Friday, April 24 in celebration of Arbor Day. With much fanfare, music and verse, the school community welcomed an eastern red cedar as the Class of 2029's class tree.

"We are probably the best shaded campus in Litchfield County," said local tree preservationist Tom Zetterstrom, reflecting several days after the event. Friday's ceremony was NCES' 36th observance since its first ceremony in 1990, and the cedar, which was planted by the Town Crew the day before, is the 36th tree Zetterstrom has personally ushered into the school's lush grounds.

"Diversity promotes resilience and stability in forests," he said, explaining that since he started coordinating Arbor Day at NCES in 1991, his goal has been to introduce a new native shade tree each spring.

The real focus, though, is the students. "We need to nurture and educate the environmentalists of the future if we're going to sustain life on this planet," Zetterstrom said.

The Class of '29 seems up to the task. During Friday's proceedings, five fifth graders recited arboreal odes to the gathered crowd of NCES students, staff, and community members, including selectmen Jesse Bunce and Melissa Pinardi.

Following the verse came ecological education, presented by Zetterstrom and



PHOTO PROVIDED

Selectmen Jesse Bunce (left), Melissa Pinardi (middle) and NCES Principal Beth Johnson water the newly-planted cedar near the close of the Arbor Day proceedings on Friday, April 24.

fellow North Canaan Beautification Committee member Christian Allyn, both NCES alums. The two, who are both deeply involved in the regional fight against invasive plants, advocated for caring for local trees.

Lower school students then performed Arbor Day songs and mulched the freshly planted cedar, and the eighth grade presented former music teacher Mary Davidson with a signed poster in thanks for her years of

teaching the same songs "that everyone in Canaan now knows," as Zetterstrom said. NCES Principal Beth Johnson thanked the Canaan Foundation for funding the yearly additions to the school's arboretum, the town staff and officials who helped plant the tree, Laurelbrook Natural Resources for providing soil, Tallon Lumber for mulch and finally Zetterstrom and Allyn as the North Canaan Beautification Committee.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Singing for the trees

Seventh graders at Cornwall Consolidated School perform a song they wrote to help students learn about identifying trees. It was a big hit.



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Our Towns

Kent moves toward food truck ban

By Alec Linden

KENT – A proposed ordinance that would ban all commercial food truck operations in town is under consideration, frustrating a local crepe maker who feels the town has been hostile to his food truck business.

Following a brief discussion at the Board of Selectmen's April 21 meeting, First Selectman Eric Epstein said he would ask town attorney Randall DiBella to draft an ordinance prohibiting for-profit food truck activity in Kent.

The proposal would ban food trucks town-wide, including on private property, and would require approval by voters. Epstein noted that Connecticut Department of Transportation regulations already restrict such businesses along state-owned roads, further limiting potential locations.

The discussion resurfaced in February when Kent resident Grégoire Pye appeared before the board seeking approval for a semi-permanent location for his food truck business, Crepe Royal. Pye operates his crepe venture out of a refurbished 1980s ambulance and said the antique auto shop Motoriot had offered space on its property.

Over the course of three meetings, several local restaurant and business owners opposed Pye's request, arguing that allowing one would "open the floodgates" and harm existing establishments.

Elissa Potts, who owns the long-running Fife'n Drum Restaurant and Inn, stated during the April 21 meeting that permitting food trucks, which are not subject to the same tax requirements as brick and mortar establishments, would be "really hard on the other businesses in town."

"Just put it to rest," she said.

John Casey, general manager for Kent Green, put his views more bluntly in a March 3 letter sent

to the First Selectman: "The idea of allowing food trucks to come in and capitalize on local businesses' investment of time and money seems like a slap in the face to those of us who have invested so much for so long."

The issue stems in part from a regulatory gap dating back to 2021 and 2022, when a jurisdictional dispute between the Board of Selectmen and the Planning and Zoning Commission left the matter unresolved.

No formal ruling was ever passed, and the issue "keeps rearing its ugly head," Potts said.

Former Land Use Office Director Donna Hayes, who was involved in earlier discussions, said the matter requires a town ordinance.

"You need to make a decision and get it over with," Hayes said, noting that the commercial nature of food trucks raises both regulatory and competitive concerns.

Other nearby towns regulate — but do not ban — food trucks. New Milford allows mobile vendors with permits and requires them to operate on private property at least 250 feet from the nearest restaurant, with a cap of 20 permits per month. Sharon and Cornwall also permit food trucks subject to fees and regulations.

Falls Village is currently in the process of developing specific regulation of food trucks, while North Canaan drafted an ordinance and held a public hearing in 2022, but did not bring it to a vote.

Pye, who was unable to attend the April 21 meeting, said in an e-mail afterwards that he was disappointed by the opposition.

"I have attempted to contact those opposing my inquiry, but it appears there is significant pressure from established interests in Kent pushing the selectmen to prevent my operations."



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Food trucks in Sharon

Sharon allows food trucks via an ordinance that imposes permits and operation restrictions. 151 Pressed, which operates outside of the Sharon Valley Tavern, opens for the season on May 15.

Sharon exhibit marks 250 years of independence

By Ruth Epstein

SHARON – Like communities across the country, Sharon is celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. But in its current exhibit, "Independence Revisited," the Sharon Historical Society is taking a different approach to commemorate the event that shaped a new nation.

The exhibit is organized into three periods in Sharon's history – 1776, 1876 and 1976. Co-curators Christopher Robinson, president of the Sharon Historical Society, and Abbey Nova, its executive director, said they aimed to create an exhibit that was interesting and thought-provoking while showcasing the organization's archives and collections.

"We wanted to give a sense of what Sharon was like at those times," Robinson said. "How they celebrated independence, why they did it the way they did and what independence meant to them."

The duo noted that it was an intentional choice because various wars had gone on during those years.

The focus is largely on 1776. Although no battles were fought on Sharon soil during the Revolutionary War, its impact was significant. About 300 men joined militias and went off to fight, leaving their families to fend for themselves. Local farmers provided food while the iron industry supplied wartime equipment and materials. The war also brought new people to town who were seeking safety and community.

The exhibit is filled with stories about the people who inhabited Sharon during that time, including attorney John Canfield, who arrived in 1765 and was later elected to the Continental Congress in 1786, but died before he could serve. His nephew, Judson Canfield, took over his practice and served many terms in the House of Representatives, eventually becoming a judge.

A familiar name featured in the exhibit is Cotton Mather Smith, a Congregational minister described as one of the most influential men in Sharon. Arriving in 1754, Smith and his wife, Temperance Gale Smith, became the moral heart of the community, settling minor disputes, serving as matchmakers, taking in the sick and indigent and caring for people during the smallpox outbreak of 1784.

Sharon was the scene of a historic event the third week of November in 1778, when 4,500 British and German prisoners camped along the road to Amenia Union. After the defeat at the Battle of Saratoga, those men who survived were marched to Boston. Two years later, Washington ordered they be escorted to Charlottesville, Va. Divided into six groups of approximately 750, they were sent off in succession. Sharon was designated the hand-off place where the Connecticut militia was to transfer custody to New York. Chaos reigned when the New York militia arrived late. Alexander Hamilton, who was then stationed in Pawling, was called to Sharon to assess the situation. Eventually the week-long backlog eased and the prisoners continued on



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Sharon Historical Society director Abbey Nova and President Christopher Robinson show old maps that are part of the 'Independence Revisited' exhibit now at the society's museum.

Sharon was the scene of a historic event the third week of November in 1778, when 4,500 British and German prisoners camped along the road to Amenia Union.

their way.

Visitors will also find stories of social intrigue, including the relationship between Theodosia Prevost and Aaron Burr, as well as lesser-known facts – such as Sharon's support for Shays' Rebellion and its comparatively restrained treatment of Loyalists.

Nova noted that an economic slump followed the war. "There was a lot of economic hardship," she said. "There was a severe cost to rebelling." By 1876, Sharon was a "town in transit," with the iron industry declining and tourism starting to emerge.

While no notable centennial celebrations took place,



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

An old spinning wheel made in Amenia, N.Y., is part of the Sharon Historical Society's exhibit titled 'Independence Revisited.'

in 1976, there were pageants and picnics and people talked about what independence meant to them. Visitors will recognize familiar faces in the photo collages taken

during those times. The exhibit, which features many photographs, paintings and historical pieces, will be open through the end of the year.



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The Lakeville Journal - The Millerton News

BUDGET

Continued from Page A1

than any previous year. The BOF has repeatedly stated the rationale for keeping the bottom line flat is to keep the MBR stable.

BOF member John Hecht defended the cuts during Friday's hearing stating that the per pupil amount, totaling some \$48,000, is the highest in the state and third highest in the country.

Still, residents were not swayed.

"Who cares," said William Betts of the per pupil costs, affirming that his motivation as a taxpayer is to invest in education.

He advocated to put funding back into arts and school supplies lines which had been cut, saying the arts are often the first to go when budgets are trimmed. "I think we have to rethink that," he said.

BOE Chair Phillip O'Reilly and BOE member Peter Birnbaum said that the reality of the school's student body and environment is not reflected by the per pupil costs, which don't account for tuition students, of which there are projected to be 14 next year, or the 60 daycare students that use the school's facilities.

"We need to understand that Sharon Center School is more than K-8 - we have a daycare," O'Reilly said.

SCS Principal Carol Tomkalski, who pushed back on the cuts, said students' needs are "broad" and "complex," which also accounts for the

high per pupil cost, noting that approximately 18-20% of students have disabilities.

Further, "we support our students as whole children," she said, noting that the cost "is not inefficiency, it is investment."

Still, both Tomalski and O'Reilly stated that they are confident that students will receive the education and services they need with the proposed budget.

Parents remained wary, though, and many spoke out in favor of reinvesting funds into the budget and bringing it back above the MBR.

Community activist Jill Drew has been openly outspoken in past years about raising the budget beyond the flatline, and reaffirmed that opinion Friday evening. "We have a very special school and the costs are high," she said, saying that with rising operational costs across the region, a flat budget for next year doesn't make sense. She requested the BOF to allow the BOE to return to its budget before the required \$70,000 cut.

The vast majority of the public testimony followed a similar sentiment. "I haven't heard a rationale for why [the budget increase] is zero," said Nancy Birnbaum. "It seems like everyone who's spoken wants an increase," she said.

Several days after the hearing, BOF Chair Thomas Bartram said that while he understands the concerns of

parents and residents and appreciated the public engagement, many who spoke on Friday night seemed to lack context on the BOF's decision to flatline the MBR.

"Several years ago, we put capital expenditures for the school building in the Board of Education budget, which was in essence a mistake on our part," he said. Since then, the BOE has been operating on an "inflated" budget due to that capital that was included, and the MBR which doesn't allow the removal of funds from the previous year's education budget.

He said that the tone of Friday's hearing departed from previous years, where residents this year have been more scrutinizing of education spending and SCS's per pupil costs. The BOF's goal was to account for what it thought was taxpayer concerns while supporting an operable budget for the school.

"It is the belief of the majority of the Board of Finance that the budget they presented is what they can run on," he said.

The Board of Finance is expected to review whether there is any feasible way to shift available funding into the Board of Education operating budget, including tuition revenue currently included in the Board of Selectmen budget or savings from the regional school assessment, which is lower



PHOTO BY MADI LONG

Sharon resident Veronica Betts posts flyers around Sharon to raise support for Sharon Center School.

than last year's.

Bartram said that while he awaits the outcome, both options are essentially "not spendable" money under normal circumstances as they come in the form of credit or grants that don't impact bottom lines.

He said that the conversation of where tuition funding goes is a worthy one moving forward, though, as the school accepts more non-resident students. In previous years, he said, the number was much lower than this year's proposed \$41,000, or even zero.

CALEB SHPUR

Continued from Page A1

"You could tell right away he had a feel for baseball," said longtime Housatonic coach Darryl Morhardt, who coached Shpur for four years. "He wasn't big as a freshman, but he just understood the game."

Shpur didn't start on varsity as a freshman, but by his sophomore year, he had earned a key role on a strong Housatonic varsity team that made a run in the state tournament.

"Caleb was ready," Morhardt said. "He was hitting cleanup for us as a sophomore on a team that went to the semifinals."

That season proved pivotal.

"My sophomore year, we made the semifinals for states, and that really pushed me to want to play in college," Shpur said. "It lit a fire under me. I wanted to get back to that feeling of high-pressure baseball."

By his senior year, Shpur had developed into a strong player. He hit over .400, stole 34 bases and committed just two errors all season, according to his coach.

"He just got better every year," Morhardt said. "Every part of his game improved - hitting, defense, baserunning."

After graduating, Shpur attended Endicott College in Massachusetts, where he emerged as one of the top players at the Division III level before transferring to the University of Connecticut.

At UConn, he elevated his game against Division I competition, hitting .358 with a .426 on-base percentage in his final year in 2025.

Despite that performance, Shpur went undrafted. As the months passed after college ended, he wasn't sure another

opportunity would come.

"I talked to the Tigers a lot during the draft process, but nothing really worked out," he said.

Still, he stayed ready. He was working at a baseball training facility in New Hampshire, which made it easier for him to stay in shape. Now in Lakeland, Shpur is beginning to adjust to professional baseball.

"I've only played a couple games so far. Got my first hit, which was nice," he said. "There's a long way to go - still adjusting to high-level pitching."

Shpur credits his time at Housatonic for shaping both his development and his love of the game.

"Having Coach Morhardt and that whole experience was awesome and really continued my love of baseball," he said.

Now, he said his focus is simple.

"Just keep grinding," Shpur said. "Take it day by day and hopefully do enough for them to see the potential and keep moving up."

His family played a key role along the way.

"We put a lot of miles on the car, but it was worth it," said his mother, Alicia Simonetti-Shpur, a teacher at Cornwall Consolidated School, where Caleb attended.

She recalled his early dedication to the sport, often playing on multiple teams at once - including Cornwall Consolidated, North Canaan Little League and a club team in Thomaston - and spending hours practicing at home.

"He would constantly throw the wiffle ball against the house with his brother; he would do it again and again," she said.

TICKET SCAM

Continued from Page A1

nity Director, said the consequences fall hardest on customers.

"We're thrilled that we are selling more tickets - and even selling out," Baldwin said. "But if someone purchased a fraudulent ticket last year, there were times when we didn't have another ticket to offer them."

To combat the issue, the Playhouse will begin scanning tickets for the first time in its history. Previously, ushers looked at tickets and directed people to their seats.

The problem is exacerbated by third-party ticket sellers with larger marketing budgets, often dominating online search results through paid ads.

"It's a constant challenge we're working on from a marketing standpoint," said Lynette Shy of Confluence Arts Solutions, the Playhouse's marketing partner. She noted that patrons frequently believe they are purchasing directly from a venue when they are not.

Despite efforts to counter misleading listings, the Playhouse said its budget simply can't keep up.

"These people have a lot more resources than nonprofit performing arts groups," Shy said.



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

The Sharon Playhouse is alerting theatergoers to purchase tickets directly through its website or box office, as the venue responds to a rise in third-party scams.

Some resellers purchase tickets in bulk and relist them at higher prices, she said, adding that efforts to monitor suspicious sales are ongoing but scammers are "getting smarter and smarter."

At Bushnell, Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of Marketing Stephanie Fried said the impact can deter audiences entirely.

When theatergoers see prices inflated far beyond what they should be, Fried said, many simply walk away without realizing affordable tickets are available directly from the venue. In some cases, she said, seasoned scam-

mers use tactics like countdown clocks or misleading inventory lists to create a sense of urgency.

"In every one of these scenarios, the patron trusted a process, acted in good faith, and was harmed," Fried said. "Every Connecticut consumer deserves honest, transparent access to tickets for the events they want to attend."

Early signs suggest the problem is continuing into the upcoming Sharon Playhouse season, prompting

staff to get ahead of the problem. Warnings are being posted on the Sharon Playhouse website, e-mail communications and social media.

"We want to keep selling out," Andress said. "But we want our customers to have the best experience and pay the prices that we actually charge."

Tickets for the 2026 season can be purchased at sharon-playhouse.org or in person at the box office.

Sharon Playhouse 2026 Season

The Playhouse has aligned its 2026 Main-Stage programming to coincide with America's 250th anniversary.

"The 2026 season reflects the heart of America," Andress said. "Stories of hope in hard times, generosity in moments of crisis, and joy created through music, laughter, and community."

The season kicks off with the high-energy star-spangled musical hit, *Swingtime Canteen* on June 19, followed by

the ultimate Broadway fairytale, *42nd Street*, and continues with the Tony Award-winning musical *Come From Away* through September 27.

The theater's Youth-Stage lineup is not to be missed, with dozens of local children and familiar faces taking the stage in *Pooh's Parade*, *Matilda, Jr.*, *Big Bad, Shrek Kids*, and *Zombie Prom*, the second annual pre-professional *Launchpad Company* production featuring local teens.

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Joan Osofsky

Beyond Hammertown: Joan Osofsky designs what comes next

By Kerri-Lee Mayland

Joan Osofsky is closing the doors on Hammertown, one of the region's most beloved home furnishings and lifestyle destinations, after 40 years, but she is not calling it an ending.

"I put my baby to bed," she said, describing the decision with clarity and calm. "It felt like the right time."

At 80, Osofsky is stepping away from the business she built into an institution. Yet her attention is not fixed on what she is leaving behind but on what she calls "Beyond Hammertown," a phase shaped not by legacy but by intention and possibility.

"Not defined by what I created, but by what I choose next," she said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

FILM

Hotchkiss Film Festival celebrates 15th year of emerging filmmakers

By Brian Gersten

The 15th annual Hotchkiss Film Festival took place Saturday, April 25, marking a milestone year for a student-driven event that continues to grow in ambition, reach and artistic scope. The festival was founded in 2012 by Hotchkiss alumnus and Emmy-nominated filmmaker Brian Ryu. Ryu served as a festival juror for this year's installment, which showcased a selection of emerging filmmakers from around the region. The audience was treated to 17 films spanning drama, horror, comedy, documentary and experimental forms — each reflecting a distinct voice and perspective.

This year's program was curated by student festival directors Trey Ramirez and Leon Li, working alongside faculty adviser Ann Villano. With more than 52 submissions received, the selection process was both rigorous and rewarding. The final lineup included six films

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

ART

'Vulnerable Earth' opens at the Tremaine Gallery

By Natalia Zukerman

"Vulnerable Earth," on view through June 14 at the Tremaine Gallery at Hotchkiss, brings together artists who have traveled to one of the most remote regions on Earth and returned with work shaped by first-hand experience of a fragile, rapidly shifting planet, inviting viewers to sit with the tension between awe and loss, beauty and vulnerability.

Curated by Greg Lock, director of the Photography, Film and Related Media program at The Hotchkiss School, the exhibition centers on participants in The Arctic Circle, an expeditionary residency that sends artists and scientists into the High Arctic aboard a research vessel twice a year. The result is a show documenting their lived experience and what it means to stand in a place where climate change is not theoretical but visible, immediate and accelerating.

That shared experience — weeks spent together navigating the waters around the Svalbard Archipelago — forms the connective tissue of the exhibition. Artists work across video, photography, performance and digital media, but what binds them is proximity: to the landscape, to one another and to the evidence of environmental change.

"The residency is fantastic," Lock said. "You fly into the most northerly airport on the planet, get on a ship with a bunch of artists and then sail around the archipelago and find a bay or a glacier, get into little rubber boats and go to



PHOTO GREG LOCK

Tremaine Gallery exhibit 'Vulnerable Earth' explores climate change in the High Arctic.

shore. There are three guides with rifles ... and they form a triangle around us to protect us from polar bears, and then you're just there."

That immediacy — of risk, of beauty, of isolation — is evident in the work on view. "Everyone is concerned with the environmental shifts that are occurring, and you're witnessing it out there," Lock said. "We were cleaning the beach one day and there's so much trash on this beach in the middle of nowhere ... because there's plastic in the sea. We are witnessing these things firsthand."

Lock's own contributions underscore how quickly the

landscape is changing. In one piece, two photographs are mounted on a glacier-shaped metal stand. "I went to photograph the glacier, and we were sailing around and because of the map, we knew we were at the glacier, but we couldn't see it," he said. Dense fog, created by warming air meeting cold ground, obscured what should have been unmistakable. Only later, in post-production, did the glacier emerge. "In Photoshop, I could extract the glacier, but to the naked eye, it was no longer visible."

Other changes are even more stark. Lock recalled the reaction of the ship's captain comparing current conditions

to his charts. "His 'up to date' map showed that the glacier was 8 kilometers between one side and the other, but we were parked at one side, sailed and moored on the other side and it was 1.4 kilometers," Lock said. "So, it's just like bam. It's happening so fast."

There is a sense of urgency in these images, but the collection also is a testament to process and to the community that forms in such extreme conditions. "There's quite a nice network of artists who are pretty tight," Lock said. "We were on a ship together in tight quarters for three weeks, so we got

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

THEATER

A celebratory season of American classics and new works at Barrington Stage Company

By Richard Feiner and Annette Stover

Amid the many cultural attractions in the region, the Barrington Stage Company in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, stands out for its award-winning productions and comprehensive educational and community-based programming. The theater's 2026 season is one of its most ambitious; it includes two Pulitzer Prize-winning modern classics, one of the greatest theatrical farces ever written, and new works that speak directly to who we are right now as a society.

"Our 2026 season is a celebration of extraordinary storytelling in all its forms — timeless, uproarious and boldly new," said Artistic Director Alan Paul. "This season features works that have shaped the American theater, as well as world premieres that reflect the company's deep commitment to developing new voices and new stories. Together, these productions embody what BSC does best: entertain, challenge and

connect our audiences through theater that feels both essential and alive."

The company has several theaters within a few blocks of each other. In the Boyd-Quinson Theater, BSC's main stage, the season features "A Chorus Line" (July 15-Aug. 8), a new 50th anniversary production of the Broadway musical that won nine Tony Awards and the Pulitzer Prize for drama. This will be followed by Michael Frayn's

beloved door-slaming comedy "Noises Off," in a first-time BSC production directed by Gordon Greenberg.

At BSC's Blatt Center for the Performing Arts, the St. Germain Stage season will open with "Driving Miss Daisy" (May 27-June 21), a collaboration with Palm Beach Dramaworks directed by BSC founding artistic director Julianne Boyd and starring Ray Anthony Thomas and Debra Jo Rupp. This is fol-

lowed by the world premiere of "Estate Sale" (June 30-July 25) by Keelay Gipson, an Afro-surrealist artist, professor and award-winning playwright and BSC Sparks grant recipient.

The season includes other provocative and timely new works. "The Zionists: A Family Storm" (June 16-July 3), produced in association with Miami New Drama, focuses on

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OUR TOWNS

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...Joan Osofsky

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

Founded in a barn in Pine Plains in 1985, Hammertown grew into a singular brand with locations in Rhinebeck and Great Barrington, known for its warm, layered aesthetic that blended European and American antiques with rustic textures and modern simplicity. Often credited with helping to define a “modern country” sensibility, the store drew a devoted following from across the region and beyond. But for Osofsky, its success was never a solo effort.

“Hammertown was never just my story,” she said. “It was built alongside my family and colleagues, whose support and talent made everything possible.”

That sense of collaboration traces back to her earlier life as a teacher in New Jersey and Rhode Island. While raising her children in the late 1960s and ’70s, she launched a patchwork quilting business, selling work in shops in New York City and the Berkshires. She went on to work with friends on The Sweet Life Chocolate Engagement Calendar, published in the early 1980s and sold nationally, and led a PTA quilting project that still hangs in her children’s former elementary school.

Those early experiences of building a home, raising a family and creating by hand became the foundation of Hammertown. Even now, that instinct remains unchanged.

“I still love knitting for babies and making scarves for friends,” she said.

As news of the closing spread, Osofsky said she felt both the weight of the decision and the depth of the community it touched.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Joan Osofsky and Sharon Marston

“*Legacy is something you come to understand later. Possibility is something you feel in the present.*”

JOAN OSOFSKY

“I felt its weight and its love when I announced Hammertown was closing,” she said.

Still, her focus returns to what lies ahead. She describes this next phase as open, undefined and deeply personal — a shift away from building a business toward following curiosity wherever it leads. Writing, travel and creative exploration are all part of that vision, along with revisiting ideas once set aside.

Among them is a book she once considered publishing traditionally. Now, she is rethinking that path, reflecting a broader change in how she approaches creativity. No longer tied to a store or a brand but “just for

the joy of it,” she said.

That shift also makes room for other parts of her life, including time with her granddaughter, cooking, learning to garden and spending time in France.

“I’ll be at Trade Secrets helping my dear friend Sharon from Marston House,” she said of the annual garden event in May benefiting Project SAGE. “She lives in France most of the year, and I visit her frequently — we shop the markets, share life and walk the French countryside. This has become an important part of my life.”

Other constants remain. Tennis, she said, has long provided not only recreation but connection. She hopes to spend more time on the court, possibly even competitively, while continuing her work with the Northeast Community Center and the Little Guild. These commitments she describes as deeply meaningful and essential to what comes

next.

“That has meant a great deal to me beyond Hammertown.”

As she prepares for the transition, Osofsky speaks less about loss than about clarity — a desire for space, a readiness for quiet and the ability to move forward on her own terms. She describes this next phase as rooted in authenticity and an “imperfectly perfect life,” acknowledging that it carries both release and uncertainty.

“I’ll let go, but I’m not sure where I’m being led, and that is OK,” she said.

A year from now, she expects people might see a shift in her — someone lighter, less burdened.

“Still deeply connected to creative beauty,” she said, “just less tied to outcomes and more open to surprise.”

Though many have framed Hammertown’s closing in terms of legacy, Osofsky resists that perspective. For her, the present moment feels far more alive.

“Legacy is something you come to understand later,” she said. “Possibility is something you feel in the present.”

What she hopes people carry forward is not just a memory but a feeling of something less tangible.

“I hope people don’t just remember Hammertown,” she said. “I hope they feel it — that sense of warmth and comfort, like walking into a place that felt like home.”

She sees Beyond Hammertown not as retirement but as the beginning of something new and intentional. There is still more to try, more to learn, more to become. It just might be her most personal design yet.

“And that, more than anything,” she said, “feels right.”



PHOTO BY DAVID DASHIELL

WAM Theatre’s artistic director Genée Coreno.

THEATER

WAM Theatre’s artistic director Genée Coreno

By Richard Feiner and Annette Stover

WAM Theatre will mark its 17th anniversary season with a lineup of mainstage productions and community programming focused on amplifying women’s voices, empowering young people and exploring the intersection of arts and activism.

The award-winning, women-owned company’s season will feature intimate storytelling, sharp comedy and historical works, alongside educational and community-based initiatives designed to engage audiences and support regional partnerships.

Artistic Director Genée Coreno said: “This season, WAM steps into a bold inquiry about influence, power, and the responsibility that comes with both, especially in moments when communities are searching for meaning. Now more than ever, we are reminded that theatre is a space to gather, to question, and to practice the kind of world we wish to inhabit.”

WAM stands for “Where Arts and Activism Meet,” and the theatre was co-founded in 2010 by Kristen van Ginhoven, now the executive director of Project SAGE in Salisbury, and Leigh Strimbeck in response to the book “Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide,” by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. Inspired by the call to “join an incipient movement to emancipate women and fight global poverty by unlocking women’s power as economic catalysts,” WAM’s vision is to create opportunities for women and girls through a mission of theatre as philanthropy.

This season, all WAM activities and events are united in their investigation of timely questions such as: What do we inherit? What do we believe? And what future are we brave enough to build? The season includes a full production of “Rooted,” by award-winning playwright Deborah Zoe Lauffer (May 1-16); two readings in the WAM Fresh Takes series — “Amani,” by critically acclaimed playwright a.k. payne (June 14), and “Gorgeous,” by playwright Keiko Green (Aug. 16); WAM’s Summer Soirée benefit (July 26); and the fall mainstage production of “Camp Siegfried,” by Tony

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

... Hotchkiss Film Festival

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from Hotchkiss students.

For Ramirez, the festival represents both a personal and creative evolution. His interest in filmmaking began with producing sports media during his freshman year, creating highlight reels for the Hotchkiss boys varsity basketball team during its 2026 NEPSAC championship season. That early work led him into photography and eventually into narrative and experimental filmmaking. Among the films screened was Ramirez’s own experimental piece, “Paradise Waits,” an abstract, montage-driven work emphasizing editing and visual rhythm.

“What I enjoy most about organizing the festival is the opportunity to curate a program that reflects a wide range of voices and styles,” Ramirez said, “while also creating a space where student filmmakers can share their work with a larger audience.”

For many filmmakers, this was the first time seeing their



PHOTO BY BRIAN GERSTEN

Student festival directors Trey Ramirez (at the mic) and Leon Li introducing the Hotchkiss Film Festival.

work projected on a large screen before a live audience, an experience Ramirez described as especially meaningful given the time and dedication behind each

project.

Now in its 15th year, the Hotchkiss Film Festival continues to build on its legacy as a platform for young filmmakers.

The festival not only celebrates student achievement but also signals a promising future for the next generation of storytellers.

... 'Vulnerable Earth'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

to know each other really well. And I found connections across the work with my own practice.”

Mindful of the environmental stakes embedded in the work itself, Lock made decisions aimed at

reducing impact when curating the exhibition. “A lot of this work I printed with their permission to cut down on my carbon footprint,” he said.

And yet, for all its focus on fragility and loss,

the Arctic exerts a pull. “It was funny, I’ve been twice,” Lock said. “When I left the last time, I was like, oh, I don’t know if I need to go back. And then I got back, and all I wanted to do was go back.”

The Tremaine Gallery is located on the Hotchkiss campus at 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville. Gallery hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, 12 noon to 4 p.m.

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ART

Artist Maira Kalman curates 'Shaker Outpost' in Chatham

By Natalia Zukerman

With "Shaker Outpost: Design, Commerce, and Culture," opening May 2, the Shaker Museum in Chatham invites artist and writer Maira Kalman to pair her own new paintings with objects from the museum's vast holdings, and, in the process, reintroduce the Shakers not as relic, but as a living argument for clarity, usefulness and grace.

Born in Tel Aviv, Maira Kalman is a New York-based artist and writer known for her illustrated books, wide-ranging collaborations and distinctive work spanning publishing, design and fine art.

"I always approach my work from an aspect of love," she said. "I fall in love with a face or a chair or a shoe. And then it is my pleasure to paint. That is how I approached the pieces I chose for the installation. They spoke to me. They SANG to me."

Her selections for the Shaker Outpost include clothing of daily life — hats, shoes, socks, gloves — alongside objects shaped by hand and necessity. A pair of bear fur mittens, a glove form, a forged iron stake. Items that once moved through ordinary days now sit in conversation with Kalman's paintings, which draw from the museum's photographic archive. "As I looked at the photo archive, I gravitated to images that made me happy," she said. "The Shaker work is so full of delicate elegance and superb utility. I love that."

The idea of utility that is elevated to poetry is at the center of the show. Kalman described the impulse to "edit your life" after encountering Shaker design, and here that instinct becomes both curatorial method



PHOTO BY MAIRA KALMAN. COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND MARY RYAN GALLERY, NEW YORK
'The Laundry Room,' a painting by Maira Kalman from the exhibition "Shaker Outpost: Design, Commerce, and Culture" at the Shaker Museum's pop-up space in Chatham.



PHOTO BY KIMISA H.
Maira Kalman

and invitation. "After seeing their work, you want to run home and throw out everything you have," she said. "You want to edit your life. You only want what is essential. The simplicity and beauty of Shaker design are rarely equaled... They have wit and wisdom. Clarity and kindness. They are practical and they sing. You just cannot go wrong."

The exhibition also marks a return. After more than two years at the Kinderhook Knitting Mill, the museum's programming comes back to Chatham — if only temporarily — before the opening of its future per-

manent home.

The pop-up exhibition at 4 Depot Square in downtown Chatham extends beyond the gallery walls. A small, carefully assembled General Store — also curated by Kalman — offers books, textiles, notecards and handmade goods by local artisans. Like the Shakers' own public-facing shops, it blurs the line between commerce and ethos, asking what it means to buy something made with care. It is, deliberately, a place to linger.

Kalman sees the Shakers as kindred spirits. "Even though my mother was a Russian born Jew, she could have been a Shaker," she said. "But then all of the women in my family could have been. A sense of beauty, care, simplicity and love imbued all that they did. They were frugal and fastidious."

That inheritance feels newly relevant. "Today we have a very fast-moving

day. Never enough time," she said. "And I think that the sense of taking time to make beauty resonates very much these days. It restores the soul."

Kalman worked closely with her son, Alex Kalman, on this exhibit. "Working with my son Alex Kalman on this installation has been a joy," she said. "He curates for his museum MMUSE-UMM, in a defunct elevator shaft on Cortland Alley in Manhattan. He is always looking for the intersection of humor and human expression and endeavor. That is how I approach the installation at the Shaker Outpost. Everything should matter."

Shaker Outpost: Design, Commerce, and Culture runs through July 5 at 4 Depot Square in Chatham, with subsequent installations by Paula Greif and Kiki Smith later in the year. For more information, visit shakermuseum.us.

... BSC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



PHOTO PROVIDED

Playwright Keelay Gipson's "Estate Sale" will have its world premier this summer at Barrington Stage Company.

a family gathering on a Caribbean island where old grievances give way to new political fears. "Dead Girl's Quinceañera" (Aug. 5-29), a collective world premiere by BSC, Chicago's Goodman Theatre and Hartford Stage, is a dark comedy about true-crime obsession, teenage bravado and what happens when girls decide to stop waiting for answers. Another world premiere, "The Urmetazoan" (Sept. 30-Oct. 25), by playwright Alex Rugman and directed by Jack Serio, tells the story of two sisters facing an imminent goodbye as one prepares to leave Earth for deep space.

"BSC is deeply committed to our home in the Berkshires, producing as many or more shows this summer than ever before, for a devoted and engaged audience," said Managing Director Greg Reiner. "And we are continuing our deep work within this community, showing up where it matters to bring new audiences theater that matters."

Since moving to Pittsfield in 2006, Barrington Stage has prioritized its connection to residents and families through extensive and inclusive education and community

engagement programs that help make its productions accessible to all. The company strives to make BSC an artistic home for an inclusive community of talented actors, writers, designers, directors and musical directors, as well as a home for its staff, students, interns and educators.

BSC has gained attention beyond the Berkshires, with productions that have moved on to Broadway and to major regional theaters around the country. The company believes that its work to support playwrights, and their visions of the world we live in, is central to its success in creating meaningful theater that resonates with all audiences.

"BSC's season is a thrilling reflection of who we are right now as a society, wrestling with division and longing for connection," Paul said. "It's an exciting season because it's alive and designed to bring us together in the dark to experience something unforgettable."

For tickets and more information on the 2026 season, including additional productions, concerts, cabarets and the company's annual gala, visit barringtonstageco.org.

LIFESTYLE

Ticking Tent spring market returns

By Jennifer Almquist

The Ticking Tent Spring Market returns to New Preston Saturday, May 2, bringing more than 60 antiques dealers, artisans and design brands to Spring Hill Vineyards for a one-day, brocante-style shopping event from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Co-founders Christina Juarez and Benjamin Reynaert invite visitors to the outdoor market at 292 Bee Brook Road, where curated vendors will offer home goods, fashion, tabletop and collectible design. Guests can browse while enjoying Spring Hill Vineyards' wines and seasonal fare.

Juarez is president of Christina Juarez & Co., a communications and business development consultancy. Reynaert is market director at ELLE DECOR, an interiors stylist and author of "The Layered Home," which he will sign at the event.

"The Ticking Tent is about reimagining the joy of discovery — bringing together antiques dealers, artisans and design enthusiasts in a setting where community and creativity thrive," Reynaert said.

Among returning vendors is Rhonda Eleish of Eleish Van Breems Home,



The Ticking Tent Spring Market returns to Spring Hill Vineyards in New Preston on May 2. Below, Benjamin Reynaert and Christina Juarez, co-founders of The Ticking Tent. Their one-day Spring Market returns to New Preston on May 2 at Spring Hill Vineyards on Bee Brook Road.



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

with shops in New Preston, Roxbury, Westport and Nantucket. "The Ticking Tent is a fun event where you can shop curated goods, meet friends and enjoy the setting," she said.

The market partners with ELLE DECOR as national media sponsor, along

with Home & Garden CT & NY, Connecticut Cottages & Gardens, New England Home CT and Litchfield

Magazine. For information and tickets, visit thetickingtent.com or follow @thetickingtent.

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One-Time Registration Required

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860-435-9851



PHOTO PROVIDED

"Closer to the Sun," a solo exhibition of nature-inspired paintings by Gabe Brown, opens May 2 with a reception from 4 to 6 p.m. at Kenise Barnes Fine Art at 7 Fulling Lane, Kent.

... WAM Theatre

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B2

Award nominee Bess Wohl (Oct. 15-Nov. 1).

In addition, WAM's 2026 season deepens its investment in the community with projects and programs in partnership with like-minded organizations, including the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and MOSAIC, the Elizabeth Freeman Center, the Lenox Library and Berkshire Community College. These activities spotlight changemakers working throughout the region to provide vital

services and to engage the arts for democratic learning and expression, intergenerational dialogue and collective belonging.

To date, WAM has provided paid work to more than 500 theatre artists, the majority of whom are female-identifying. In fulfillment of its philanthropic mission, WAM donates a portion of proceeds from its mainstage productions to selected recipients. Since its founding in 2010, the theatre has donated more than \$105,000 to 26 local and global organizations supporting gender equity in areas such as girls' education, reproductive justice, human

trafficking awareness and midwife training.

Managing Director Molly Merrihew said: "Artists and educators are the changemakers who nurture communities into vibrant, sustainable ecosystems fueled by collective, creative, and collaborative action. We hope you will join us."

WAM Theatre has been widely recognized for its positive impact on cultural and community development in the region. This season is expected to deepen that impact.

Passes and single tickets are on sale now. For more information, visit wamtheatre.com.

Tri-Corner Calendar

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

APRIL 30

"The Revolutionary Mindset in Litchfield County" Book Discussion with Peter Vermilyea
Kent Town Hall 41 Kent Green Blvd. Kent, Conn. 7 p.m.

Historian Peter Vermilyea discusses the political zeitgeist of 1776 and how it played out locally, drawing on his latest book, "Litchfield County in the Revolution." Vermilyea teaches at Housatonic Regional High School and Western Connecticut State University and is scholarship director of Gettysburg College's Civil War Institute. Free admission; suggested \$15 donation. RSVP: director@kenthistoricalsociety.org.

MAY 1

Banned Book Club: "Pet" by Akwaeke Emezi
David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org
4 p.m. Discussion of Emezi's novel hosted with the Falls Village Equity Project. Open to ages high school and up; copies available at the library.

Stonewood Farm Plant Preview Party
Stonewood Farm, 110 Bangall Road, Millbrook, N.Y.

Intimate fundraising preview event for the annual starter plant sale, featuring early access to seedlings, farm tours, canapés by Chef Kristen, and wine, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Attendance limited; proceeds support Stonewood Farm programming. Info at stonewoodny.org

MAY 2

Eyes of the Unseen / Carved in Light
Mad Rose Gallery, 5916 N. Elm Ave., Millerton, N.Y. May 2-June 28

Exhibition of paintings by Moshgan Rezaia and glass works by Anjali Singh. Opening reception May 30, 4 to 6 p.m.; RSVP at info@madrosesgallery.com.

Women in Aging Series: Caroline Phipps

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org
1 p.m. Transformational coach Caroline Phipps leads a program on building resilience, reducing stress and strengthening emotional well-being, drawing on her Living with Inner Elegance philosophy. Free; registration required.

Lotus Lantern Craft Workshop

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hands-on workshop creating a lotus flower lantern using colored paper and a wireframe, with an introduction to Korean culture and a short documentary film. Registration required at millbrooklibrary.org.

Twelve Moons Coffee House: Stephen Bennett

The Center on Main, 103 Main Street, Falls Village, N.Y. Monthly coffee house series featuring open mic performances and a professional artist set. Doors open at 6

p.m., open mic at 6:30 p.m., featured performance at 8 p.m. This month features fingerstyle guitarist Stephen Bennett. Guests may bring dinner and beverages or enjoy light refreshments.

Litchfield County in the American Revolution
Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. cornwalllibrary.org

Author Peter Vermilyea discusses his new book on Litchfield County's role in the American Revolution, from key figures to local militia and divided loyalties. Talk at 5 p.m.; in person only. Registration required: 860-672-6874 or CornwallLibrary.org.

Growing Great Vegetables

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org

Local vegetable farmer and educator Janna Siller leads a discussion on growing vegetables, from seed to harvest, with hands-on examples and gardening guidance, 2 p.m. Seeds and plants provided. Questions may be submitted in advance to janna.siller@adamah.org.

Senior Dinners at Hotchkiss

The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Conn. May 2: Philharmonic Orchestra. May 9: Romeo & Juliet.

Annual free program at Hotchkiss. Meet at the main circle for dinner with Hotchkiss students before the events. Dinner at 6 p.m. Concert at 7:30. Free; RSVP to lsiris26@hotmail.com

The Hotchkiss Philharmonic Orchestra Season Finale

Katherine M. Elfers Hall, Esther Eastman Music Center, The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Conn. Season finale concert honoring retiring Head of School Craig W. Bradley, featuring works by Fauré, Mozart and Beethoven, 7:30 p.m. Free admission and open to the public.

Garden Wellness: Forest Bathing with Fru Molnar

Innisfree Garden, 362 Tyrrel Road, Millbrook, N.Y. Guided forest bathing session with certified guide Fru Molnar, focusing on mindful, sensory connection with nature, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Pre-registration recommended; space limited. innisfreegarden.org

Berkshire Opera Festival presents "Flower and Hawk"

Ventfort Hall, 104 Walker St., Lenox, Mass. 2 p.m.

Monodrama for soprano by Carlisle Floyd, exploring the life of Eleanor of Aquitaine. Performed in English; approx. 50 minutes. Tickets: berkshireoperafestival.org

Saddle Up for the Kentucky Derby with Rotary

Noble Horizons, 17 Cobble Road, Salisbury, Conn. 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Annual Kentucky Derby-themed social and the Salisbury Rotary Club's largest fundraiser, supporting local scholarship, food banks, and community nonprofits.

Includes auction and sponsorship opportunities.

Tickets and donations: salisburyrotary.org

Reel Genius II Movie Trivia Fundraiser

Troutbeck, 515 Leedsville Road, Amenia, N.Y. The Moviehouse will host "Reel Genius II," a movie trivia fundraiser Saturday, May 2, from 6 to 10 p.m. at Troutbeck in Amenia. The evening includes cocktails, dinner, four rounds of movie-themed trivia, and live and silent auctions to benefit the nonprofit theater. Cocktail casual. Space is limited. Tickets at troutbeck.com

MAY 3

Spring Ephemerals Guided Walk

Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, 2801 Sharon Turnpike (Route 44), Millbrook, N.Y. 10 to 11 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Guided walk through Fern Glen with a Master Naturalist exploring early-blooming woodland wildflowers and native pollinators. Easy hike under 1 mile. \$10; registration required.

Classical Sunday with Francisco Vila

Spencertown Academy Arts Center, 790 State Route 203, Spencertown, N.Y. 3 p.m.

Cellist Francisco Vila performs works by Cassadó, Janáček, and Brahms. Tickets at spencertownacademy.org.

Dressing Up in 18th-Century New England

Sharon Historical Society and Museum 16 Gay St., Sharon, Conn. 3 p.m.

A display and discussion of 18th-century clothing, including shoes, stays, petticoats, aprons, and a cloak, led by experts from Cora Ginsburg LLC. Free; RSVP at rspv@sharonhist.org.

MAY 6

Library Jam & Community Sing-Along

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monthly gathering led by Eric Marshall. Bring an instrument or just your voice. All ages and abilities welcome. Meets first Wednesday of each month, indoors or on the porch depending on weather.

MAY 7

Millbrook Film Club: "Cielo"

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y. 6 to 8 p.m. Screening of a documentary exploring the night sky in Chile's Atacama Desert, presented in honor of NASA's Artemis II mission.

MAY 8

Susan Monserud Retrospective

The Good Gallery, 23 South Main St., Kent, Conn. May 8-9

Exhibition celebrating the life and work of the artist and architect, featuring paintings and monoprints from the 1960s to 2026; open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Meet-and-Greet for New Recreation Director Allycia Soule

Falls Village Inn, 33 Railroad St., Falls Village, Conn. 5 p.m. Community welcome event hosted by the Falls Village Recreation Commission to introduce new Recreation Director Allycia Soule and share ideas for future programs and activities.

"Un Real" Opening Reception

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y. 6 to 8 p.m. Exhibition featuring Fern Apfel, Betsy Brandt, Monica Miller Link, Kevin Mosca, Laura Von Rosk and Daniel Walworth. On view May 8 through June 28.



Local Matters

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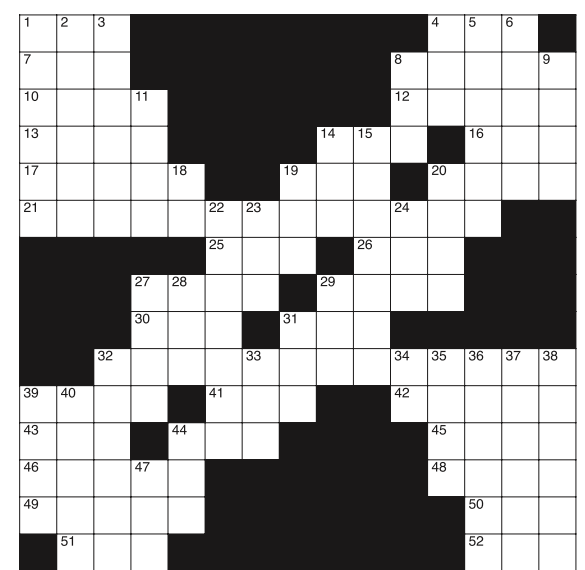
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Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- Purchase
- British news organization
- Midway between northeast and east
- Language specialist group
- Fancy automobile
- Small loop or series of loops
- Exploiter
- Don't know when yet
- Group of languages
- One who's finished
- After B
- Angled
- A place to adopt pets
- Swiss river
- Young boy
- Unexciting
- American comedian
- Vidale
- Peyton's little brother
- Corporate higher-up
- "All in the Family" star
- Strike something forcefully
- Up in the air (abbr.)
- Clay earth pigments
- Means to record brain activity
- Small constellation
- Embraces
- Brief description
- Exclude
- White (French)
- Insect
- A major division of geological time
- Soviet Socialist Republic



- Where a golfer begins
- Attendant
- The ancient Egyptian sun god
- Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
- Benedictine monk
- Not turbulent
- Car mechanics group
- Buffer used in chemistry
- Fall heavily
- Pie ___ mode
- The Brits love it
- Children's TV channel (abbr.)
- Jacksonville footballer
- Helps little firms
- ___ and behold
- A way to resemble
- Fingers
- Excessive indulgences
- You might be an "empty" one
- "How the West Was Won" writer
- European river
- They begin the alphabet
- The body's messenger

April 23 Solution

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

Sudoku

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

April 23 Solution

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

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Our Towns

Region One advances \$19.5M budget

Voters to decide 5.67% increase May 5

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Voters in all six Region One towns will head to the polls on May 5 to act on the district's proposed 2026-27 school budget.

The referendum will take place in Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon, where residents will vote by ballot on the spending plan. The vote will take place between noon and 8 p.m. in each town.

The proposed budget totals \$19,533,640, an increase of \$1,048,431, or 5.67%, over the current year.

A public hearing on the proposal was held April 9 at Housatonic Valley Regional High School and online, giving residents an opportunity to weigh in ahead of the vote.

The Region One Board of Education voted the same

night to advance the budget to referendum.

The Region One budget is divided into three components: Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS), Pupil Services and the Regional Schools Services Center (RSSC), also known as the central office.

The HVRHS portion — which covers staffing and day-to-day operations at the regional high school, including teachers, administrators, nurses, athletics, guidance, library services, custodial staff and building systems — is proposed at \$9,408,838, an increase of \$273,260, or 2.99%.

Pupil Services, which includes special education and related support such as pre-kindergarten programs, psychologists, speech clinicians, paraprofessionals and tutors, accounts for \$8,111,086 of the budget,

rising by \$588,530, or 7.82%.

The RSSC, encompassing the superintendent's office and districtwide administrative and support functions, is proposed at \$2,013,716, an increase of \$186,642, or 10.22%.

Region One Business Manager Sam Herrick presented the budget at the April 9 public hearing, noting that more than 98% of the overall increase is driven by health insurance costs, salaries and Pupil Services.

Of the \$588,530 increase in Pupil Services, Herrick said about \$449,230 is tied to tuition and transportation for out-of-district placements. He added that some savings were achieved by not replacing certain retiring employees and eliminating a full-time psychologist position.

No questions were raised following the presentation.

Town assessments

Region One town assessments are based on the number of students each town sends to HVRHS, meaning costs can shift as enrollment changes.

North Canaan alone sends 106 students to HVRHS, representing a substantial share of total enrollment. For example, while the town sent slightly fewer students — 106, down from 108 the year before — its share of the total still rose from 33% to 35% as overall enrollment declined.

Enrollment is finalized each Oct. 1. HVRHS has 300 students this year, down from 327 the year before, and is projected to decline further to 292 in 2026-27.

The cost per pupil is \$39,669, including \$31,363 for HVRHS, \$6,726 for Pupil Services and \$1,581 for the Regional Schools Services Center.

Details

May 5, Noon - 8 p.m.

Locations

Town Hall of Canaan/ Falls Village	Town Hall of North Canaan
Town Hall of Cornwall	Town Hall of Salisbury
Town Hall of Kent	Town Hall of Sharon

If the budget is approved, town assessments would be as follows:

Cornwall

\$2,168,169, an increase of \$163,895 or 8.87%.

Falls Village

\$1,752,589 an increase of \$208,904 or 14.89%.

Kent

\$2,783,359, an increase of \$171,360 or 7.48%

North Canaan

\$6,140,112, an increase of \$519,526 or 9.11%.

Salisbury

\$4,798,928, an increase of \$17,835 or .43%.

Sharon

\$1,890,486, a decrease of \$33,356 or - 2.07%.

Cornwall budget proposal raises mill rate; vote scheduled May 15

By Christian Murray

CORNWALL— Residents will vote on the town's proposed 2026-27 budget at a town meeting scheduled for Friday, May 15, at Cornwall Consolidated School, where officials are presenting a spending plan that would raise property taxes by about 4%.

The proposed mill rate is 16.62, up from 15.96 this year. For a homeowner, that increase would mean annual property taxes of about \$5,817 on a home assessed at \$350,000, compared with roughly \$5,586 today — an increase of about \$231. In Connecticut, the assessed value is 70% of the market rate.

The proposed budget totals \$8,924,433, a 6%

increase over the current \$8.417,014 plan, with education costs driving the majority of the growth.

More than half of the spending is tied to education, including both Cornwall Consolidated School and the town's share of the Region One school district. The combined education budget is just over \$5.2 million. Cornwall Consolidated School's operating budget is about \$3.2 million, up 6.41%, while the town's Region One assessment is \$2.2 million, up 8.99%.

On the municipal side, the Board of Selectmen's operating budget is proposed at \$2.63 million, an increase of 4.72%, while capital spending is set at \$760,000, up 4.83%. Debt service is one of the few declining areas,

dropping 2.28%.

Town officials point to rising costs in insurance and employee benefits as key drivers.

To support the plan, the town is projecting \$7,937,142 in net property tax revenue. After accounting for state aid, local revenues and a \$225,000 use of fund balance, that amount represents the portion of the budget to be funded by property taxes.

The budget vote will take place in person at the school and will not be conducted by ballot, as is the case with the Region One budget.

Voting Details

May 15, 7:30 p.m.

Cornwall
Consolidated School
5 Cream Hill Rd,
West Cornwall

Kent budget plan calls for tax increase; vote set for May 29

By Alec Linden

KENT — Voters will decide Kent's proposed municipal and education budgets for fiscal year 2027 at a town hall meeting on May 29. Residents must attend in person to weigh in and cast their votes on the spending plans.

The vote will follow a May 15 public hearing, when the Board of Finance will consider public input before advancing the budgets to the May 29 meeting.

The proposed budgets carry an anticipated mill rate of 17.45, an increase of 0.58, or 3.44%, from the current year. For homeowners, that would mean a modest increase in property taxes if approved. A home assessed at \$350,000, for example, would carry an annual tax

bill of \$6,107, an increase of about \$203.

The Board of Selectmen's municipal operating budget totals \$5,277,965, up just over 5% from this year.

Total education spending is projected at \$8,090,829, a 3.61% increase, combining the local elementary school budget and the town's required contribution to the Region One school district.

The Kent Center School budget stands at \$5,307,470, a 2.12% increase, after the Board of Finance directed a \$30,000 reduction ahead of the public hearing. Rising costs, including employee benefits, continue to drive the local school budget.

Kent's share of the Region One budget is projected at \$2,783,359, an increase of about \$170,000, or 6.57%,

driven largely by high school tuition and shared services. Regional costs account for a significant portion of the overall increase, outpacing growth on the local school side.

To help balance the budget, the Board of Finance voted April 14 to allocate \$250,000 from the town's unassigned fund balance.

The Region One budget process is handled separately. The proposed \$19.5 million regional budget, a 5.67% increase, will go to referendum in all six district towns on May 5.

Budget documents are available for public review on the town's website.

Town Hall meeting

Friday, May 29, 6 p.m.

Kent Town Hall
41 Kent Green Blvd.

Falls Village seeks budget cuts ahead of May 22 vote

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Falls Village officials are seeking spending cuts to avoid a potential double-digit property tax increase as budget planning for fiscal year 2027 continues, with a public hearing set for May 8 and a town meeting vote scheduled for May 22.

At a special meeting April 27, the Board of Finance voted to ask the Board of Education to reduce its proposed budget by \$50,000 and the Board of Selectmen to cut \$100,000.

Board of Finance Chair Ginger Betti said that, based on current proposals for municipal spending, the Lee H. Kellogg School and the town's Region One assessment, Falls Village would face a \$656,000 shortfall. That gap would translate to an estimated 2.68-mill increase, pushing

the current mill rate of 22.44 higher and resulting in an approximate 11.27% increase in property taxes.

Finance board member Amy Wynn said the path forward could include revenue from the sale of the former firehouse at 35 Railroad St., use of the town's general fund, and reductions to proposed spending.

The Board of Education's proposed budget for Lee H. Kellogg School totals \$2.49 million, an increase of \$100,451, or 4.2%.

Falls Village's assessment for Region One is \$1,752,589, an increase of \$208,904, or 13.54%. Combined education spending would total \$4,243,305, up \$309,355, or 7.86%.

First Selectman Dave Barger presented the proposed municipal budget of \$2,600,436, an increase

of \$177,610, or 7.33%, at a March 30 meeting.

The plan does not include a pay increase for the selectmen. Most town employees would receive a 2.5% increase, while highway department employees, who are on a step-based pay scale, would see an average increase of 3.73%.

Combined municipal and education spending, including the Region One assessment, totals \$6,843,741, an increase of \$486,965, or 7.66%. With the proposed \$150,000 in cuts, that total would drop to \$6,693,741, an increase of \$336,965, or 5.3%.

Public Hearing

May 8, 7 p.m.

EMS Center

188 Route 7 S

Town Meeting

May 22, 7 p.m.

EMS Center

188 Route 7 S

Sharon sets May 8 vote on budget after school funding debate

By Alec Linden

SHARON — Sharon will hold a town meeting on May 8 at Town Hall to act on its proposed municipal and education budgets for fiscal year 2027, following a late Board of Finance review prompted by resident pushback on school spending cuts.

Residents must attend the May 8 meeting in person to vote. The meeting will follow the Region One school budget vote on May 5.

Sharon's budget plan was revisited this week after a two-hour public hearing

on April 24 where residents urged officials to restore funding to Sharon Center School. The current proposal reflects a Board of Finance directive to cut \$70,000 from the elementary school budget, bringing it to \$4,165,513, flat from the current year and marking a fifth straight year with no increase.

Sharon's contribution to the Region One high school totals \$1,890,487, a 1.73% decrease. Combined education spending stands at \$6,026,012, down 0.64% overall.

Following the hearing,

the Board of Education discussed using savings from the regional side to offset cuts to the elementary school budget, an idea supported by residents.

The proposed municipal budget totals \$5,446,187, a 5.78% increase, and has drawn little pushback.

If approved, the Board of Finance will set the mill rate. The current rate is 11.15, with no projection yet for the coming year.

Town Meeting

Friday, May 8, 6 p.m.

Sharon Town Hall
63 Main St.

North Canaan and Salisbury budget details appear on page B6

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North Canaan sets May 13 town meeting amid rising regional costs

By Christian Murray

NORTH CANAAN — North Canaan will hold its town meeting on May 13 to act on its proposed municipal and education budgets for the 2026–27 fiscal year, contingent on approval of the Region One school budget on May 5.

Unlike the Region One budget, which is decided by referendum across six towns, residents must attend the town hall meeting in person to weigh in and vote on the local budgets.

While the proposed budgets do not list a mill rate, First Selectman Jesse Bunce said the property tax rate — currently 24.75 mills — is expected to remain roughly unchanged. For a homeowner, that means a property assessed at \$350,000 would result in about \$8,663 in annual property taxes. In Connecticut, property is typically assessed at 70% of market value.

The proposed budgets total about \$14.6 million, including a \$3,351,583 municipal budget and an \$11,238,600 education budget, the latter reflecting a 7.92% increase over the current year.

Of the education total, about \$5,098,488 is allocated to North Canaan Elementary School, a 6.73% increase, driven in large part by rising medical insurance premiums. Those same healthcare costs are also a factor on the municipal side of the budget.

Meanwhile, \$6,140,112 represents the town's share of the Region One budget, which covers high school tuition and shared services.

Regional costs are driving the bulk of the increase. North Canaan's share of the Region One budget is projected to rise by about \$503,679, or 8.94%. The jump marks a notable shift from last year, when North Canaan's Region One assessment rose by just

over 1%. The town is budgeting for 106 students to attend Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

The proposed municipal budget is up 3.45% from last year.

A public hearing on the budgets was held on April 20 and lasted only three minutes. It drew no questions on the education budget and a single question on municipal healthcare costs.

The Board of Finance is reviewing the budget proposal and will set the final tax rate before it goes to the town meeting.

Bunce said after the meeting he was surprised by the lack of public comment, attributing it to a stable mill rate and multiple prior budget discussions.

If approved, the budgets will take effect July 1.

Vote Details

Wed., May 13, 7:00 pm
North Canaan Town Hall
100 Pease St.

Salisbury budget vote set for May 13; mill rate likely to stay flat

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Voters will consider Salisbury's proposed 2026–27 municipal and education budgets at the annual town meeting May 13, with officials indicating the mill rate is likely to remain unchanged at 11.0, meaning no increase in property taxes if the budgets are approved.

The Board of Finance reached that preliminary conclusion following a public hearing April 27, after which it voted to send both budget proposals to the town meeting.

The Board of Selectmen's budget totals \$9,617,825,

an increase of \$412,723, or 4.40%.

The Board of Education's proposed budget for Salisbury Central School (SCS) is \$7,213,515, up \$316,367, or 4.59%.

The town's Region One assessment is \$4,798,927, an increase of \$17,834, or 0.37%. The Region One budget will go to referendum May 5.

Assuming the regional budget is approved, total education spending for 2026–27 would be \$12,012,442, an increase of \$334,201, or 2.86%.

If the municipal and SCS budgets are approved May 13, total town spending would reach \$21,630,267,

an increase of \$746,924, or 3.58%.

The hearing was attended by members of the Board of Finance, Board of Education and Board of Selectmen, along with Town Hall and SCS staff and one reporter.

No questions were raised for SCS Principal Stephanie Magyar or First Selectman Curtis Rand following their presentations.

Board of Finance Chair Pari Forood said the preliminary scenario assumes the mill rate would remain unchanged.

Vote Details

May 13, 7:30 p.m.
Salisbury Town Hall
27 Main St.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Wreckage from the 1943 plane crash is kept at Great Mountain Forest.

Details surrounding WWII plane crash remain mystery

By Patrick L. Sullivan

NORFOLK — More than half a century after a 25-year-old WWII pilot fatally crashed his plane into a ridge on Great Mountain Forest in Norfolk, the circumstances remain a mystery — but artifacts preserve the soldier's legacy.

On March 31, 1943, First Lieutenant Daniel Henry Thorson of the United States Army Air Force took off from Mitchell Field on Long Island at 3:34 p.m. His destination was what was then known as Bradley Field at Windsor Locks, Connecticut.

Thorson was flying a P-40E-1 fighter plane with three and a half hours of fuel, and what should have been a routine, 30-minute flight somehow went disastrously wrong.

According to records, the plane crashed at 4:10 p.m. in a remote area on Great Mountain Forest (GMF), killing Thorson.

The Connecticut Western News edition of April 29, 1943 reported the details weeks later.

“The mysterious and unsolved death three weeks ago of Aviation Lieut. Daniel H. Thorson, age 25, of South Worth, Pas., in the deep jungle recesses of Canaan Mountain while on a routine flight from Mitchell Field, New York to Bradley Field, Windsor Locks, is one that is puzzling the brains of our military forces,” the article noted.

It went on to share that Thorson's body and his plane were found high up on the mountainside one Saturday morning by two students of the Yale School of Forestry, William Holmes and F.J. Turner. The duo was running a surveyors' line through the 4,000 acre estate of S.W. Childs, a founder of GMF.

“Had these men not been surveying in the mountainous territory,” the article said, “there is

no telling when the body of the intrepid flier might have been discovered.”

Present-day GMF property manager Russell M. Russ made artifacts of the crash available, including a large chunk of the aircraft itself and a .50 caliber machine gun round.

Russ said when the Army came to the crash site, the salvage team recovered everything they could find, including thousands of .50 caliber rounds.

Thorson was honored, and a marker installed near the scene of the accident on June 25, 2003.

The memorial service included a presentation of awards and decorations to Thorson's relatives, a proclamation from Governor John Rowland, the reading of memorial letters from military officers — including Capt. Howard Tuman, Thorson's squadron leader — and a flyover with A-Warthogs from the Connecticut Air National Guard.

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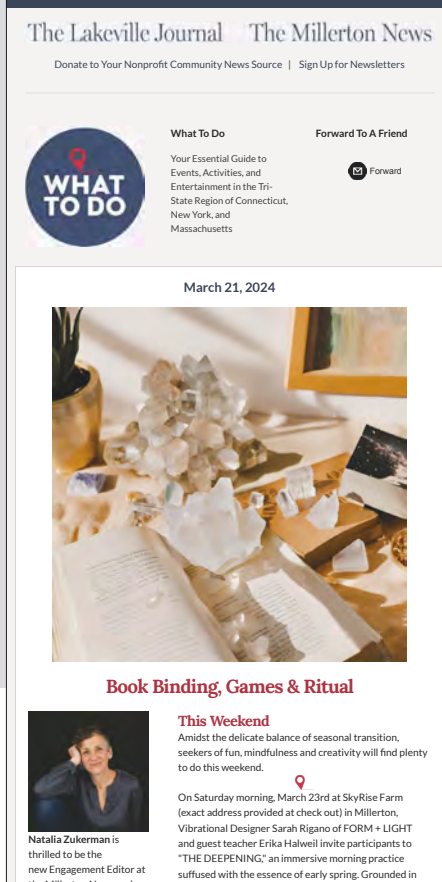
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Sports

Boys tennis team takes down East Granby/Canton

By Riley Klein

FALLS VILLAGE – Housatonic Valley Regional High School's boys tennis team won 6-1 over the co-op team from East Granby High School and Canton High School Tuesday, April 21.

HVRHS's second win of the season came on a chilly, overcast afternoon. It was about 49 degrees when service began at 4 p.m.

Gustavo Portillo played first singles for HVRHS against Red Cassotto. Portillo didn't drop a game, winning the match 6-0, 6-0.

HVRHS's Jonas Johnson defeated Kavin Jayaganesh in the second singles match, which went 6-2, 3-6, 10-1.

Lorenzo Policella defeated HVRHS's Adam Hock 6-3, 6-1 in the third singles match.

Jaxon Visockis took the fourth singles match against Liam Smith. Visockis won 6-1, 6-0.

HVRHS won all three doubles matches.

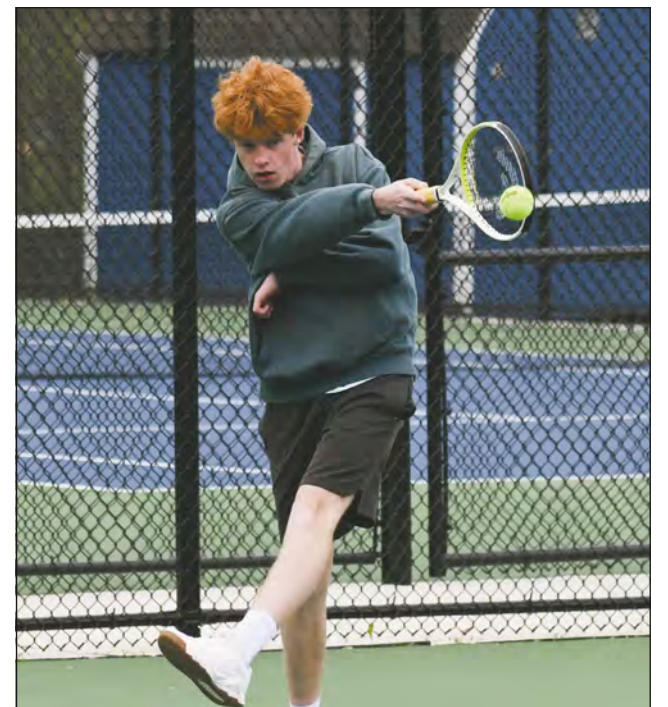
The first doubles team of Baxter Hayhurst and Peyton Bushnell defeated Sean O'Connor and Nehemiah Victor 6-3, 6-2.

Paul Losch and Angel Gonzalez beat Spencer Nannoun and Alan Joby 6-3, 6-0.

Carter Finney and Justin Sorrell defeated Marte Roth and Zach Smith 6-0, 6-1.



Jaxon Visockis takes the fourth singles match.



Adam Hock during his singles match.



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Ryan Segalla wins the 400-meter race in 50.5 seconds.

Housy hosts season-opening track meet

By Riley Klein

FALLS VILLAGE – Berkshire League track and field began the regular season Tuesday, April 21, with a meet at Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

HVRHS hosted athletes from Nonnewaug High School and Gilbert School for an afternoon of competition. In total, 18 events were held for both boys and girls.

Gusting winds and overcast skies made for chilly conditions, about 49 degrees, but that did not deter contenders.

Nonnewaug's large team performed well and accumulated the most team points of the day.

HVRHS athletes succeed-

ed individually in several events.

Ava Segalla won the 100-meter race in 13.2 seconds. Freshman Lainey Diorio finished right behind her with a personal-best time of 13.3 seconds.

Ava Segalla also won the girls high jump by clearing a height of 4-feet 10-inches.

Peter Austin tied for first in the boys high jump. He cleared 5-feet 0-inches, along with Nonnewaug's Shemaiah Savage.

Ryan Segalla won the 200-meter race in 22.4 seconds, a new personal best for him. He was more than a second ahead of Nonnewaug's Edward Longo with a time of 23.9 seconds.

Ryan Segalla dominated the 400-meter race in 50.5 seconds, nearly five seconds ahead of the second-place finisher, Nonnewaug's Chance Salisbury, who ran 55.1 seconds.

HVRHS's 4x100-meter girls relay team of Ava Segalla, Lainey Diorio, McKenzie Lotz and Olivia Brooks won the event in 54.3 seconds. Nonnewaug's team ran 56.3 seconds and Gilbert finished in 59.7 seconds.

Finian Malone won the 3200-meter run in 11:24.3 minutes. He was more than a minute ahead of second place, which went to Nonnewaug's Corbin Fretz in 12:30 minutes.

Full results available at athletic.net.

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