



The Lakeville Journal

lakevillejournal.com

20 PAGES IN 2 SECTIONS VOLUME 129 NUMBER 46

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THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026 \$3.00

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

After painter's death, friends reflect on a life rebuilt

By Christian Murray

LAKEVILLE — Friends and co-workers say Michael Moore spent years rebuilding his life.

Now, they are grappling not only with the loss of a friend and employer, but with the loss of a father whose life had come to revolve around his 7-year-old son, Lucian.

The 40-year-old painting contractor was killed June 1 in Ashley Falls. Authorities allege that fellow painting contractor Cole Bushnell was responsible. Bushnell, 41, has pleaded not guilty to a charge of first-degree murder and is being held without bail.

Friends say Moore had overcome addiction, regained custody of his son and built a business that employed people who, like him, were trying to get back on their



PHOTO PROVIDED

Michael Moore with his son, Lucian. Friends and family say much of his life revolved around raising his son.

See MIKE MOORE, Page A12

Witnesses, investigators reconstruct painter's final day

An account of the final hours leading up to the death of Michael Moore, a Northwest Corner painting contractor whose longtime friend now faces a murder charge.

By Christian Murray

LAKEVILLE — Michael Moore started June 1 like most other workdays.

The 40-year-old painting contractor arrived at a Lakeville jobsite with his crew and began preparing a boathouse on Interlaken Road for painting.

Nothing appeared unusual.

By the end of the day, Moore would be dead, and longtime friend and fellow contractor Cole Bushnell, 41, would be at the center of a murder investigation that has shaken up local residents.

Based on interviews with Moore's coworkers, a Bushnell employee who says he was shown Moore's body, and comments from Berkshire District Attorney Timothy Shugrue, a clearer picture has emerged of Moore's final known hours before his body was dis-

covered at Bushnell's Ashley Falls property.

A routine morning

Joey St. John, who had known Moore for nearly a decade and planned to work for him this summer, arrived at the Interlaken Road job in Lakeville at around 8:20 a.m. He drove fellow worker Moises Reyes with him from Torrington. Moore and his cousin Paul arrived in Moore's vehicle from Winsted, St. John said.

"It was a normal day," St. John said, noting that it was the crew's first day at the job and they were scraping and sanding surfaces in preparation for priming.

Bushnell arrives

Bushnell arrived at the jobsite sometime between 10 and 10:30 a.m., according to St. John.

Moore and Bushnell had worked together for years and were close friends whose crews frequently collaborated on projects throughout the Northwest Corner.

See TIMELINE, Page A12



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The 35-meter ski jumping hill and tower will soon be ready for summer use.

SWSA prepares to launch summer ski jumping at Satre Hill

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — For generations, Satre Hill has come alive each winter as ski jumpers soar through the cold air during Jumpfest, which celebrated its 100th year in February. Soon, however, the iconic hill may be just as busy in the summer, as new infrastructure and artificial surfaces pave the way for year-round training.

The Salisbury Winter Sports Association (SWSA) is preparing to launch summer jumping, which could transform the venue into a nearly year-round jumping destination. SWSA hopes to attract young jumpers from New England and New York to train at Satre Hill during the summer, and eventually hopes to host a summer jumping event.

SWSA president Ken Barker said

the ability to practice year-round helps the athletes. "Like any other sport, we can keep them focused and in the best condition," he said.

Barker said the artificial surfaces, made out of plastic and ceramic, feel remarkably similar to real snow. One necessary component is running water, which is used to wet the surfaces being installed on

See SWSA, Page A7



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

The cozy digs inside the 19th century Infinity Hall are ready for hungry patrons following the Wednesday, June 10 soft opening.

Infinity Bistro brings theater dining back to Norfolk

By Alec Linden

NORFOLK — Four months after the Norfolk Pub — the only full-service restaurant in town — shuttered its doors, another has sprung up inside the historic walls of Infinity Hall, bringing an à la carte menu and a community gathering place back to the heart of downtown.

Infinity Bistro held its soft opening on Wednesday, June 10, marking the first restaurant ser-

vice the 19th-century music hall has offered since shutting down its own food offerings during the COVID-19 pandemic. Lisa Ludwig, general manager of Infinity Hall and a decade-plus veteran of the establishment, said she was pleased with the first night back, which had been advertised through social media and word of mouth.

"We were thrilled with the first

See BISTRO, Page A7

Sharon Hospital awarded seventh consecutive five-star quality rating

By Aly Morrissey

SHARON — Sharon Hospital has once again earned the highest possible rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, marking the seventh consecutive year the hospital has received a five-star designation for quality.

The federal agency's 2026 Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings evaluate hospitals nationwide based on measures including mortality, safety, readmissions, patient experience and timely care. Sharon Hospital received high marks across those categories, according to a June 12 announcement from Northwell Health.

"Earning this national recognition for seven consecutive years

See HOSPITAL, Page A7



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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.

Truck strikes utility pole

On Saturday, June 6, Selenne Juanito, 29, of Millerton, N.Y., was eastbound on Salisbury Road in North Canaan in a 2012 Ford F350 Super Duty at approximately 11:30 p.m. when the vehicle ran off the side of the roadway at a curve, striking a utility pole. No injuries were reported and Juanito was issued an infraction for failure to maintain lane.

Driving without license

On Saturday, June 6, at approximately 4:30 p.m. Abner Lux Ubico, 19, of Millerton, N.Y., was westbound on Route 44 in North Canaan in a 2012 Subaru Legacy when the vehicle traveled off the side of the roadway, hitting a guardrail. No injuries were reported and the driver was issued an infraction for driving without a license.

Vehicle hits group of trees

Shortly before noon on Sunday, June 7, Brandon Wells, 18, of Lakeville, was traveling on Wells Hill Road in Salisbury when he mistook the gas pedal for the brake pedal and kept the steering wheel turned to the right. The vehicle, a 2022 Chrysler Pacifica, left the road and struck a sign and a group of trees. No injuries reported and the driver was issued a written warning for failure to maintain lane.

Rear-ended in Norfolk

On Thursday, June 11, at approximately 10 a.m., Lauren Foley, 43, of Canaan was

eastbound on Route 44 in Norfolk at Shepherd Road, behind a 2015 Jeep driven by Mercedes Vijay, 59, of Torrington. Foley's 2006 Chevy Impala rear ended the Jeep as it was turning into a residential driveway. Foley was found at fault and was issued a misdemeanor summons for operating under a suspension, following too close and having an expired registration.

School bus hit by falling tree; no one hurt

On Thursday, June 11 at approximately 3:45 p.m. an All Star Transportation school bus with 19 passengers was northbound on Low Road near Grandview Lane in Sharon when the bus was struck by a falling tree. Neither the driver, Jean Kearns, 57, of West Cornwall, nor any of the children, who ranged in age from 6 to 14, reported injuries when examined by EMS, and the driver was not found at fault in the accident. There was minor damage to the front bumper of the bus.

Truck snags guardrail

On Saturday, June 13, at approximately 7:30 a.m., Tristan Miller, 22, of Unionville, was westbound on Johnson Road in Canaan in a 2002 Ford F250 Super Duty when the truck left the roadway and struck a guardrail. Miller was issued a warning for failure to maintain lane and the Ford was towed from the scene.

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

Field Day Fun at Lee H. Kellogg School

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE – It was Field Day at the Lee H. Kellogg School on Monday, June 15, as students took to the field at 9:30 a.m. to compete in a variety of games

and activities, including disc golf and capture the flag. During the "Pizza Box Relay," Lev Sadeh and Noah Sher, partially hidden behind a stack of pizza boxes, tried to split the difference between control and speed during the race.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Lev Sadeh and Noah Sher compete in the Pizza Box Relay during Field Day at Lee H. Kellogg School.

Salisbury median home price reaches \$875K

By Christine Bates

SALISBURY – The 12-month trailing median price for a single-family home in Salisbury, excluding condominiums, was \$875,000 for the period ending May 31, 2026.

The \$875,000 median was 24% lower than the \$1,145,000 median recorded for the 12 months ending May 31, 2025, but 5% higher than the \$830,000 median reported for the comparable period ending May 31, 2024.

The number of homes sold during the 12 months ending May 31, 2026, rose to 53, compared with 47 sales during the prior 12-month period ending May 31, 2025, and matched the 53 sales recorded during the period ending May 31, 2024. The annual sales record was set for the period ending May 31, 2021, when 117 homes were sold.

Inventory of residential properties on the market increased slightly to 20 listings in early June. The high-end market continued to dominate, with 14 homes listed above \$1 million and just six priced below the town's median sale price of \$875,000.

Furnished seasonal and academic rentals remained plentiful in early June, with 24 homes available. Asking prices ranged from \$3,850 per month for an academic-year rental to \$65,000 for the summer season.

Salisbury Transfers in May

62 Reservoir Road – 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home on 2.1 acres transferred by 62 Reservoir LLC to Michele Ganeless for \$1,350,000

11-17 Valley Road – 5 bedroom/5 bath/2 half bath with an accessory apartment on 21.2 acres transferred by David and Cynthia Edelson to Brian and Tracey Early for \$4,900,000

5 Valley Road – 4 bedroom/4 bath modern farmhouse on 3 acres transferred by Robert Blanchard and Carol Lynne Vargo to Weatherly-White Carley Trustee for Carl Weatherly-White Revocable Trust for \$2,850,000

260 Taconic Road – 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home built in 1880 on 2.5 acres transferred by Seig Sacks to Riccard Properties LLC for \$2,000,000

460 Wells Hille Road – 3 bedroom/2 bath ranch on 4.9 acres transferred by Lawrence



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

308 Main Street in Lakeville, where Black Squirrel antiques store once operated, sold after 306 days on the market for \$970,000, below its original listing price of \$1,200,000.

and Cynthia Hoage to Russell and Lisa Hoage for \$41,454

308 Main Street – 4 bathroom retail store on .76 acres transferred by Thomas Emerick and Joanne Beveridge to William Popadic and Amber Finlay for \$970,000

36 Rocky Lane – 3 bedroom/2 bath home on .3 acres transferred by John James Ball to Rose-Louise Kealey and Daniel Scaggs for \$900,000

240 Main Street – 4 bedroom/2 bath on .55 acres sold by McBride Builders LLC to Emily Vail for \$688,000

247 Twin Lakes Road – 3 bedroom/3 bath home on 4.5 acres sold by Barry and Helena Schuman to Robert and Sarah Slocum for \$3,255,000

16 Westmount Road – 5 bedroom/5 bath home on 10 acres transferred by Sara Wardell and Donald Hendell Trustee for Richard D Wardell Second A & R Revocable Trust to Robert Lloyd Blanchard and Carol Lynne Vargo for \$1,600,000

17 Perry Street – 3 bedroom/2 bath newly built home transferred by Salisbury Housing Trust Inc to Dan Bolonani for \$250,000

6 Juniper Ledge Lane – 4 bedroom/3.5 bath home on 2 acres transferred by Kenneth Fields and Nicole Noya to Rebecca Kostopoulos for \$875,000

60 Selleck Road – 3 bedroom/3.5 bath home on 1.97 acres transferred by Carlos Arrendondo to Eunice Byun and Daniel Lee for \$2,500,000

* Town of Salisbury real estate transfers recorded between May 1, 2026, and May 31, 2026, provided by Salisbury Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market listings from Smart MLS and market statistic from InfoSparks. Note that monthly recorded transfers may lag sales by a number of days and include properties not appearing on the MLS. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Transfer station manager Brian Bartram stands post in Salisbury.

Transfer stickers on sale for Sharon residents, will be available in Salisbury June 30

By Alec Linden and Patrick L. Sullivan

User stickers for the 2026-27 Salisbury-Sharon Transfer Station went on sale for Sharon residents June 15 and will become available for Salisbury residents on June 30. The deadline to purchase and display stickers is August 11.

Transfer Station Manager Brian Bartram said stickers must be affixed to the outside of front windshields, not the bumper or back window.

For both towns, the cost is \$160 for the first sticker and \$60 for each additional sticker for the same household. Stickers not assigned to a single vehicle, such as those for Airbnb rentals, cost \$250. Residents without a current sticker will be charged a \$20 single-entry fee. For seasonal renters, proof of residency is required to obtain a sticker even if it has been shown previously.

In Sharon, forms are already available for pickup at the rear entrance of Town Hall or via download from the town website, sharonct.gov. Completed forms must be returned to Town Hall by mail or dropped into the black box at the rear entrance. Residents may also direct-

ly process sticker requests at the Selectmen's Office during business hours, which are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The office will also be open on Saturday, June 27 from 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information regarding Sharon, contact Tina Pitcher at 860-364-5789 or Treasurer@sharonct.gov.

Salisbury stickers go on sale at Town Hall beginning on June 30 using the same form and pricing.

Don't Miss This Week's Special Inserts! Sales and more!

Check them out inside.

• Ocean State Job Lot

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FRIDAY 28th Annual Book Signing Author Dinners	SATURDAY Page to Plate Book Signing and Cocktail Party with E. Jean Carroll	SUNDAY Brunch with Melissa Clark Summer Reading Kids' Carnival
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10 Upper Main Street, Sharon, CT
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THE HOTCHKISS LIBRARY OF SHARON

Our Towns

Region One Study

Kent, Salisbury opt in, marking unanimous participation

By Patrick L. Sullivan and Alec Linden

The final two Region One school boards have agreed to participate in the district's organizational study, marking full participation from all six boards across the region, plus Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

The Kent Center School Board of Education voted unanimously Wednesday, June 10, to opt into the study. The Salisbury Board of Education followed suit Monday, June 15.

The study will run from September 2026 to May 2027, with findings to be presented in June 2027. Region One Superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley and Business Manager Sam Herrick will conduct the study.

"This is the last stop," Brady-Shanley told the Salisbury BOE, noting that every other school board in the district had agreed to participate.

Asked whether the focus would examine the possibility of consolidating some of the region's K-8 schools, Brady-Shanley said, "That is a piece of it."

While Brady-Shanley maintains that community identity and character will remain central to the process, the study will examine declining enrollment in several smaller schools throughout the region, as well as operational costs that continue to rise.

"As part of this work, the study will clearly outline the financial and educational realities of the Region's current model so that each local board of education and community can make informed, data-driven decisions about their school," the proposal stated.

Brady-Shanley added that once the study is complete, she does not expect immediate action. "It will take a while for people to digest it."



PHOTOS BY ALY MORRISSEY

Young anglers cast their lines at The Grove, where kids' fishing lessons are offered during the summer.

Registration opens for summer recreation at the Town Grove

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE – Salisbury Recreation is now accepting registrations for a variety of summer programs, including swim lessons, kayaking, paddle boarding, sailing, fishing and the swim team.

Programs last for one-week, and take place Monday through Friday. The first session begins June 22 and the final session begins August 3.

These programs are open to Salisbury residents

and any non-residents that purchase a non-resident Town Grove pass.

Tennis lessons and Lego Camp are open to residents from any of the Region One towns, and do not require a Grove pass. Tennis lessons are ongoing while Lego Camp will take place from July 6 through 10, and is open to children ages five through 12.

The Lego Camp will be broken into two age groups. From dinosaurs to Harry Potter, camps will feature



age-appropriate instruction.

To register, visit salisburyct.us.recdesk.com. For

more information, contact Lisa McAuliffe at 860-435-5186 or email lmcauliffe@salisburyct.us.

NHCOG and Leonardo Ghio receive Rural Achievement Award

By Alec Linden

LITCHFIELD – The Northwest Hills Council of Governments and Leonardo Ghio, project director of rural health and human services for the organization, have been awarded national recognition for prioritizing healthcare and access to human services as fundamental to successful planning and economic development in the region.

The National Association of Regional Councils, a country-wide regional governance advocacy group, awarded the NHCOG and Ghio with its 2026 Rural Achievement Award, which honors organizations and individuals that innovate strategies to address unique challenges that rural communities face. The accolade champions Ghio's and the NHCOG's focus on public health, behavioral health, aging services, food security and social service coordination as foundational components for lasting wellness in rural communities.

"Employers cannot thrive when residents struggle to access healthcare, transportation, housing, nutrition, or support services," said Ghio in a June 9 release.

"By bringing health and human services into the regional planning conversation, we are helping communities build stronger workforces, improve quality of life and create conditions for long-term economic resilience," he added.

Erich Zimmermann, executive director of the National Association of Regional Councils, said the example extends beyond the Litchfield Hills. "Their work serves as a national example of how regional organizations can address health and human service needs while advancing economic development and community sustainability."

Scoville Library hosts all-ages collaging event with local artist

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY – Local artist Ali DeProdocini led an all-ages community crafting hour called Collaging and Introspective Visionboarding at the Scoville Memorial Library on Sunday, June 14.

Eight adults, half a dozen children, library staff and the artist spent the afternoon creating collages from piles of magazines and discarded children's books withdrawn from the library's collection. The adults appeared to be enjoying themselves as much as the younger participants.

The library's Children's Services Coordinator, Kyla DeRisi, acknowledged that cutting up books may seem off-putting, but noted they had been removed from circulation and would otherwise have been discarded.

"This way we can give



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Local artist and educator Ali DeProdocini is all smiles in her element leading a collaging workshop for all ages Sunday, June 14.

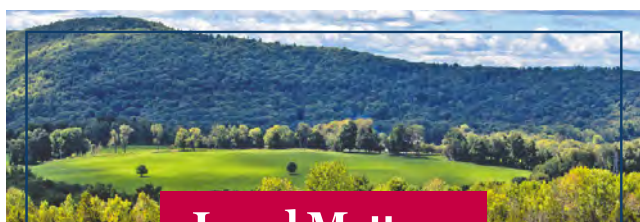
them new life," she said. Among the adult attendees was Darcy Boynton, co-founder of Blue Studio Dance in Lakeville. "Adults long to craft," she said. "It's so soothing."

In fact, Blue Studio will

host DeProdocini this summer for a five-week art camp called "ROYGBIV," named after the colors of the rainbow. The camp will allow children ages 5 to 11 to explore visual arts in a "joyful,

low-stress environment — falling in love with color, process, and a variety of mediums."

Additional information can be found at bluestudioandance.com/summer-programs.



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SAT., JUNE 27 | 7:00 PM

Christan Sands Trio

Christian Sands, Piano
 Isaac Levian, Bass
 Ryan Sands, Drums
 Works by Dave BRUBECK

Music Mountain Summer Festival

SUN., JUNE 28 | 3:00 PM

Misha Dichter, Piano & Balourdet Quartet

Works by Maurice RAVEL,
 Nicky SOHN, and Johannes BRAHMS
 Piano Quartet in G Minor, Op. 25

Tickets \$50-65 | \$30 for Student / Teacher / Veteran / 19-40 y.o.
 Free Under 19 y.o.
 (860) 824-7126 and musicmountain.org

Chicken dispute prompts Sharon zoning change

By Alec Linden

SHARON — Months after residents raised concerns about chickens kept on a neighboring property, Sharon's Planning and Zoning Commission has adopted two amendments to its zoning regulations aimed at clarifying agricultural activities that don't neatly fit under the town's definition of "farming."

The first change addresses the keeping of small animals on parcels under three acres, which is the minimum size for a property to be considered a farm under Sharon's regulations. The new rules allow residents in residential districts with lots of at least three-quarters of an acre to keep up to six chickens and rabbits and up to four ducks, with a maximum of six animals total. Properties over three acres, which could be considered a farm, are exempt from these restrictions.

Several conditions apply. The animals must be kept in a coop that complies with setback requirements for the zone, and roosters, guinea hens, pheasants, peacocks and geese are prohibited on such properties.

The regulations are similar to those in nearby towns, including Salisbury and Cornwall, which conditionally allow the keeping of small poultry and mammals through their zoning codes.



A barn and silo on Calkinstown Road in Sharon.

PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

The change was set in motion last fall when a complaint was raised by Sharon Valley Road residents Letitia and Brian Brazee that a neighbor's chickens were causing a nuisance. The couple argued that the town's regulations were too vague regarding small animal husbandry, prompting P&Z to explicitly regulate the keeping of chickens, rabbits and ducks on sub-farm sized properties.

Second regulation change codifies barns, other farm-related structures

Farms are allowed as of right in any of Sharon's zones, provided that the property is three acres or greater. In addition

to the minimum acreage requirement, the existing definition of a farm stipulates that manure and other "offensive material" must be stored at least 100 feet away from any property line and prohibits the commercial slaughter of animals not raised on the property.

The amendment approved on June 10 retains that definition, but adds conditions primarily related to buildings on farm parcels that do not contain a residence. The new language states that such structures must be incidental to farming operations on the property, and that vehicles unrelated to those operations may not

be stored on the property.

P&Z member Jill Drew said the condition was intended to prevent property owners from storing junk vehicles or extra cars on auxiliary lots. "You can't make it a glorified parking lot," she said.

The new regulations also require applicants seeking zoning permits for farm structures to submit a "Farm Use Statement" identifying the purpose of any new structure. In addition, any new construction intended to house livestock or poultry, or store offensive material, must comply with the existing 100-foot setback requirement from property lines.

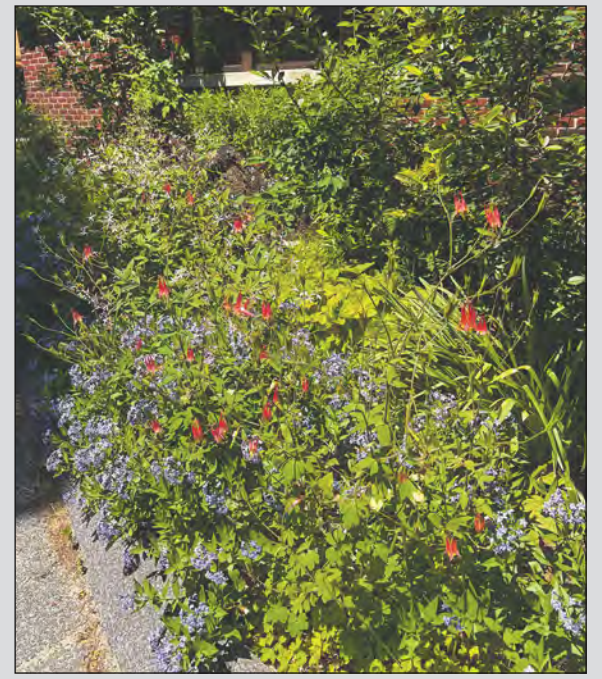


PHOTO PROVIDED

A tour with library garden designers Page Dickey and Deborah Munson will take place Saturday, June 27, at noon.

Native plant tour and sale set for Falls Village

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Pollinators and native plants will be the focus of a series of events in Falls Village on Saturday, June 27.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., visitors can pick up a brochure and map at the Town Green for a self-guided tour of the community's pollinator pathway, which stretches from Railroad Street to the David M. Hunt Library. The guide highlights the native plants featured in each garden. Volunteers will be on hand to answer

questions.

Native plants will be available for purchase on the Green from Michelle Paladino of Lindeira Nursery.

At 10:30 a.m., families can enjoy storytime at the library featuring "Native Plant Saturday," nature-inspired tales for children of all ages. In addition to the stories, a snack will be provided and a flower bookmark craft will be held.

At noon, Page Dickey and Deborah Munson — designers of the library's gardens — will lead a tour of the library's native plant gardens.

Scientist seeks hardier caterpillar to combat invasive Tree of Heaven

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — A fast-spreading invasive tree could soon meet its match, according to Boston-based scientist Michael LaScaleia, who spoke at the Scoville Memorial Library Thursday, June 11, about efforts to breed a webworm capable of keeping the common tree in check. The event was sponsored by the Salisbury Association Land Trust.

A scientist with the Arnold Arboretum, LaScaleia focused his talk around the Tree of Heaven, a highly adaptable tree native to East Asia that was introduced to the United States as an ornamental tree in 1784.

"The Tree of Heaven is a big point of concern," LaScaleia said, adding that it grows rapidly and is tolerant of a wide variety of conditions. It is also the preferred host of the invasive spotted lanternfly, a highly destructive species.

LaScaleia said in any plant's native habitat, specialized herbivores often help keep the populations in balance by eating them.

"They don't eliminate it but they keep it in check," he said.

In the United States, however, the Tree of Heaven does not have a native specialist herbivore.

One possible solution might be to introduce "bio-controls," introducing insects that feed specifically on the invasive plant. La-



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Scientist Michael LaScaleia warns of the threats of invasive plants during a June 11 talk in Salisbury.

caleia said this approach has been successful when a specialized beetle was used to suppress purple loose strife populations, although it took decades of testing.

This approach can also backfire, he said, citing the introduction of the Asian lady beetle to combat black pecan aphids, which had unintended consequences.

"They have completely taken over," he said. "It's the only ladybug you see anymore."

Rather than importing another species from Asia, LaScaleia is studying how the Ailanthus webworm (*Atteva aurea*) might work if certain obstacles can be overcome. While already in the United States, they only exist in warmer climates including the Southeast. The problem, he said, is that the webworm migrates north but cannot

survive prolonged temperatures below 55 degrees Fahrenheit.

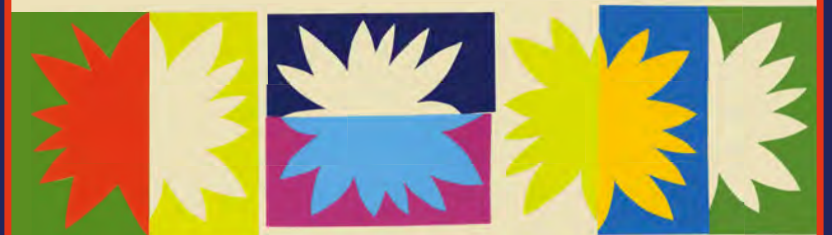
One primary reason they don't work is that even though the *Atteva aurea* migrates north to New England, it doesn't survive in temperatures below 55 degrees Fahrenheit.

But LaScaleia said he is trying to breed an *Atteva aurea* that can survive the winter.

"In theory, we can create a caterpillar that can do something about the Tree of Heaven," he said, adding that, if successful, "controlling an invasive plant does not equal eliminating it."

After the talk, LaScaleia and some of the audience made the short hike to the Land Trust's Vincent Preserve for field work and continued conversation.

Books & Blooms



🌿 Cornwall Garden Weekend Event 🌿

Friday, June 19 | 5pm

Writing about Place and Living with a Garden.

A talk by Jonathan Galassi, renowned editor, author, and poet. Cocktail reception to follow, featuring live music by the Crownback Funk Trio.

Saturday, June 20 | 10am to 4pm

Self-guided tours of four traditional and contemporary Cornwall gardens, three of them new to the event.

Tickets & Information

CornwallLibrary.org | 860.672.6874
The Cornwall Library, 30 Pine Street
Cornwall, CT



OBITUARIES

Nicholas Gandolfo Jr.

EAST CANAAN — Nicholas Gandolfo Jr., 94, of East Canaan, Connecticut, passed away peacefully on June 4, 2026, following a courageous battle with kidney cancer and chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL).



Born and raised in East Canaan, Nick was the son of Nicholas Gandolfo Sr. and Marie Zucco Gandolfo, both Italian immigrants. He embraced his Italian heritage with great pride throughout his life.

From an early age, Nick developed a deep love for the outdoors, particularly hunting and fishing. These passions remained a source of joy and connection throughout his lifetime.

Nick proudly served his country as a United States Marine during the Korean War. During his distinguished and heroic service, he received numerous medals and citations, most notably for his actions during the Battle of the Hook, where he helped save members of his platoon despite sustaining injuries himself. His courage, selflessness, and unwavering commitment to others defined not only his military service but also the way he lived his life.

A devoted advocate for veterans, Nick was actively involved with the Marine Corps League, where he helped establish a scholarship fund. He was also a dedicated member of the Canaan Couch-Pipa VFW, through which he provided durable medical equipment—and often Girl Scout cookies—to veterans living in VA homes and hospitals, including Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. His generosity extended far beyond the veteran community. Nick was known for supporting numerous charitable

causes and serving those in need, including helping provide Thanksgiving dinners to local families.

Nick also dedicated 25 years of service as a volunteer firefighter for the Town of Canaan, further demonstrating his lifelong commitment to helping others.

He will be remembered for his quick wit, spirited personality, and unmistakable charm. A shameless flirt, Nick delighted in competing with his friends to see who could collect the most hugs at any social gathering. Thanks to his warmth and charisma, he almost always won.

He leaves behind his loving daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, his brother, many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and countless friends.

The family extends its heartfelt gratitude to the staff of East Mountain House, Geer, Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association, and the Winsted Veterans Affairs office, for their compassionate care and support.

Private wake and burial services will be held for the family. Friends and loved ones are warmly invited to attend a Celebration of Life on June 20, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Canaan Couch-Pipa VFW.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to East Mountain House, P.O. Box 1405, Lakeville, CT 06039.

Nick spent his final days at East Mountain House, surrounded not only by his family but also by an extraordinary team of caregivers who provided exceptional comfort, dignity, and support. His family will be forever grateful for the kindness and compassion shown to him during his final journey.

Anita L. Gochey

CANAAN — Anita L. (King) Gochey, 85, of 77 South Canaan Rd. died June 5, 2026, at Geer Village. She was the wife of the late Lester Gochey. Anita was born July 16, 1940, in Winsted, daughter of the late Ivan and Irene (Dulude) King.



Anita was well known throughout the Northwest Corner. She worked for many local businesses and organizations. Anita worked at the Rexall Drug Store, C.A. Lindell and Sons, Bob's Clothing, Brooks Pharmacy, and the Housatonic Valley Regional High School in the cafeteria. She used her skills in calligraphy to complete the record books for the North Canaan Congregational Church. Anita's daughter remembers her as being very creative with cardboard, and a loving mom.

son Raymond Gochey and his fiancée Chris Filkins of Hinsdale, Massachusetts; and her daughter Michele O'Brien of Sharon. She is also survived by her sister Denise Warner of Torrington and her brother Arthur King of Danbury. Her three grandchildren, Kyle Go-

chey of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, Cody O'Brien of Georgia, and Sabrina O'Brien of Falls Village. Anita was predeceased by her brother, Martin King.

A Celebration of Anita's life will be held on Saturday June 20, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home 118 Main St. Canaan, CT 06018.

Correcting Errors

We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning. Notice of such error must be given to us after the first run of the advertisement.

Richard McGriff

TACONIC — Richard McGriff died unexpectedly on May 16, 2026. This is a collection of loving reminiscences.

With a smile like that and a laugh like that and a soul like that, how could you not love him? **Macey Levin and Gloria Miller**

Richard McGriff knew about loyalty and honor; he practiced them both. He was a good friend and he will be missed. **Dick Boyle**

Whenever I saw Richard I asked how are you doing and he always replied, "Can't complain because nobody wants to hear it." I would always reply "I'll listen, not that I'm going to do anything about it," and we would laugh every time. **Janet Hodgson**

Rich had a wonderful tenor voice. We talked about starting an "oldies but goodies doo-wop" group as we both knew the words to a lot of those songs, but it never happened. **John Hebdavny**

Somebody shouting, "Hey Rev!" as they drove by. Turning around, it was a delight to see Richard waving exuberantly from his car! **John Carter**

Whenever I got to talk with Richard - I simply found optimism again, not only possible, but likely. The world was a better place with Richard in it. I sorely miss him. **Paul DePaolo**

I really enjoyed the time I spent with Richard. He was a warm and kind person and had a beautiful singing voice. **Mike Mangini**

He'd drive through town, see me at my coffee, blow the horn, call my name. It could just make my afternoon. **Peter Fitting**

There's Hope and Crosby. There's Rich and Macey. Rich and Macey put on a better show. **Bill Anstett**

Richard had an indomitable spirit and a positive outlook that made me feel better simply by being in his presence. **Mark Shearer**

We knew Richard only to say hello as he drove by, when we saw him at the P.O. Always with a smile, always with an "upbeat" comment to make.... just a really nice man who helped to make Taconic Road a place where we are happy to live. **Joel and Terry Cohen**

We will always remember Richard's kindness and the familiar sight of him driving past our house each day to pick up the newspapers. He will be missed on Taconic Road. **Bobby Graham & Matt Marden**

Richard was such a lovely man. He always had a smile and a laugh for you. Although, if I was working outside, he would always hit the horn as he drove by and scare the crap out of me! **Karen Bibro**

We will miss you, Richard, and the genuine kindness and warmth you brought into our lives. **Jeff Holt & Jillian Cleary**

Always a smile on his face. **Michael Kahler**

Richard's exuberant personality always brightened our day. His cheerfulness and charm blessed all around him. **Ismael Ginouves**

Great sense of humor, always kind and generous. He got us tee shirts that said "Be kind to your cashier!" **Dawn Prince (LaBonne's Market)**

Richard was a fashion icon with the kindest heart and most beautiful soul and I feel privileged to have had him in my life. **Ashley Radcliffe**

He was a man who carried a constant smile, known for his warmth, humor, and truly positive spirit. I'll always cherish our dinners at The Woodlands—his joy for life was contagious. **Kelley Smith-Hull**

What I loved most about Richard was he had a genuine interest in people. I will miss our encounters around town but take comfort that he is with his Dorothy. I'm truly overjoyed that he came into my life. **Roger Crain**

He was the kindest, fairest, caring and curious of humans. When I last saw him he left in laughter and smiles. There is a space I will hold for him." **Aimée D. Davis**

Send obituaries to obituaries@lakevillejournal.com

Francis Lynehan

DOVER PLAINS — Francis "Butch" Lynehan, 75, a twenty-year resident of Dover Plains, New York, formerly of Sharon, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, May 7, 2026 at Vassar Bros. Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, New York.



Born Aug. 29, 1950, in Sharon, he was the son of the late William W. and Nellie (Kluun) Lynehan.

Butch grew up in Sharon and attended Sharon Center School and Housatonic Valley Regional High School. At the age of seventeen, he enlisted in the United States Army and is a Vietnam War Veteran.

After his military service of three years, he was employed at the Kimberly-Clark Corporation and later worked many years for the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation.

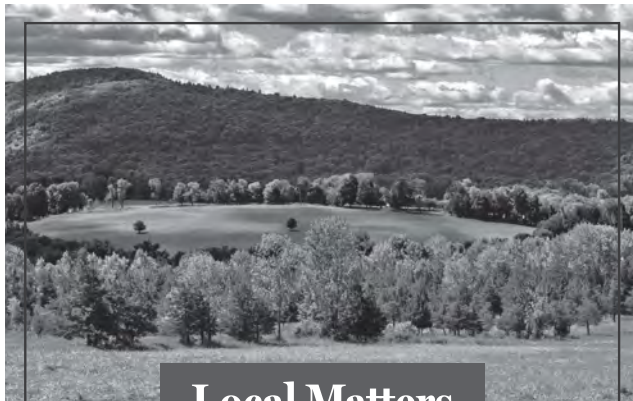
Butch was an avid hunter and fisherman. He was a member of the Chestnut Ridge Rod & Gun Club in Dover Plains, Millerton Gun Club and the Sharon Fish & Game. He was a long-time member of the V.F.W. Post 5444 in Dover Plains and the Sharon American Legion Post 126. He was a former member of the Sharon Fire Department.

Butch is survived by his devoted wife, Nancy (Stark), his former wife, Rosemarie (Marchi) Larosa and their two sons, Michael and Stephen. He was the proud grandfather of three grandsons, Mason, Noah and Tucker. He is also survived by his

loving sisters, Pat of Sharon, and Yvonne of Chapel Hill, Tennessee, and several cousins and nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother William "Billy" Lynehan and his niece Lisa Hoglen.

There will be no calling hours. A private burial will take place on Saturday, June 27, 2026, at Hillside Cemetery in Sharon, with Standard Military Honors, followed by a Celebration of Life at the Sharon Fire Department, 36 West Main Street, Sharon. All are invited to attend. Memorial contributions may be made to the Sharon American Legion Post 126, 15 New Street, Sharon, CT 06069 or Sharon Little League/NWCTSBLL, P.O. Box 569, N. Canaan, CT 06018. To send an online condolence to the family, flowers to the service or to plant a tree in Butch's honor, please visit conklinfuneralhome.com.

Worship Services Week of June 21, 2026	
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	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
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 trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627	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 You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org
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 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	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 am, 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
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	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
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	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
Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194	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
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	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
The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building	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!
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	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
Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M. 518-789-5158	



Local Matters

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LET'S HEAR IT...



THIS WEEK

Fireworks have long been part of Fourth of July celebrations, lighting up the night sky in towns across the country. But in recent years, drone light shows have become an increasingly popular alternative, as communities weigh safety concerns, fire risks, noise complaints, environmental effects and changing state and local regulations.

What do you think about this changing tradition? Should communities hold on to fireworks, embrace drone shows or find room for both?

Send your responses to publisher@lakevillejournal.com by Monday, June 22 at 10 a.m. or comment on Facebook or Instagram. We'll publish a selection in next week's paper.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

As Region One studies the future of its schools, what should matter most: cost, educational opportunity, town identity, travel time or something else?

"I believe that all the towns that send kids to the elementary and high schools should split the costs equally regardless of the amount. Of kids each town has two go to those schools or the parents of the kids that have their kids go to school. This crap of having people who don't have kids in school have to pay for it as well."
— Shaun Murphy

For this week's "Turning Back the Pages," go to www.lakevillejournal.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Save our Forests

I remember, as a child, seeing the branches of the majestic elm trees on the green in the center of town, cover the sky. Then we were hit with the Dutch Elm disease and most of the elm trees died. The hemlocks in much of the country are plagued by the woolly adelgid, an insect native to East Asia. Losing our hemlocks would be devastating. Currently, a huge threat to our ash trees is the emerald ash borer, which has already killed thousands of ash trees all over the country.

How does our country fight these diseases that are attacking our forests? It is with the National Forest Service, where scientists work to find ways to stop the foreign insects and diseases attacking trees to save our forests.

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins of the Trump administration is closing fifty-seven of the seventy-seven research stations of the Forest Service across the coun-

try. She wants to shrink the Forest Service headquarters and move it from Washington DC to Utah. The Forest Service has a crucial role in preserving one hundred and ninety-two million acres of forests covering forty-three states from the Big Cypress National Park in Florida to the hardwood forests of Glacier National Park on the Canadian border. The current administration wants to end the "roadless rule" put in by the Clinton administration, which since 2001 has protected millions of acres of undeveloped forests from exploitation by lumbering and mining.

Trees in our national forests help fight against climate change by storing ten percent of carbon and the Forest Service is vital for fighting the insects and diseases attacking these forests. The National Forest Service should not be reduced or destroyed.

Lizabeth Piel
Sharon

Impeach Trump now, not later

Every day I wake up, I wonder whether it's possible for Trump's corruption to reach a higher level. Trump appears to be an evil genius able to constantly devise new, creative ways to take advantage of his position to enrich his family and friends, and he has a team of sycophants who are all too eager to carry out his schemes. This needs to end now, and there needs to be justice brought against the crooks who have been perpetrating this corruption and theft of resources from the rest of us as ordinary Americans and taxpayers.

Senator Schumer and House Minority Leader Jeffries have decided to delay any push for impeachment until after the mid-term elections. But what if there's no election? Trump has stated,

"there should not be an election [in November]"; and "I have the right to do whatever I want as President," and "nobody can stop me, only my own moral sense." Waiting for an election to occur first may be too late. We cannot take this risk.

You might ask how one might have an impeachment proceeding without the majority of the House voting for it and, even if it occurs, the improbability of two thirds of the Senate voting for conviction. However, there are increasing numbers of disaffected Republicans who detest Trump and may be willing to add the few votes needed tip the balance in the House to support an impeachment proceeding.

Even if the Senate would fail to convict the President, the record of crimes and

supporting evidence gathered during impeachment would better enable lawsuits accusing criminal behavior to be made sooner than later. Moreover, in an election year, those House members voting not to impeach, or those Senators voting not to convict, would "own" part of the corruption when the chickens eventually come home to roost. And they will come home.

An impeachment proceeding would lay bare to the American public immediately before the mid-term elections just how corrupt the administration has become. It would make it more difficult for the President to hinder the execution of the midterm elections by, say, cooking up a national security "threat" and invoking the Insurrec-

tion Act. It would increase the pressure on the President not to mess with the election process.

According to multiple polls, a little over half of Americans support impeachment of Trump. Schumer and Jeffries need to step aside to allow new Democratic leadership to represent the desires of their constituents. They are failed politicians with insufficient gumption and leadership, and who enabled deeply flawed Trump to ascend to the presidency a second time. If the Democrats lose again, they will have gotten what they deserve given their poor and misguided leadership. And we, the American people, will pay for it. Do you deserve that?

Lloyd Baroody
Lakeville



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

Court tests meaning of equal justice

"We want a Supreme Court which will do justice under the constitution – not over it. In our courts we want a government of laws, not of men."

Franklin D. Roosevelt

John Roberts was nominated to replace Sandra Day O'Connor as a justice on the Supreme Court in July 2005 – three days later Rehnquist died and Roberts was nominated for Chief Justice as his replacement. The most vocal Democratic resister to Roberts' confirmation was the new Senator Barack Obama who contested that though Roberts would be unquestionably qualified for 95 % of Supreme Court cases, he would be lacking for 5% of cases requiring depth and width of empathy – Roberts was for the strong over the weak. Roberts was confirmed 72 – 22. Four years later, January 20, 2009, Roberts bungled the Presidential oath of office at Obama's inauguration, the oath was redone on January 21. Both men had been president of the Harvard Law Review – Roberts in 1978 and Obama in 1990.

In 2005 the Supreme Court enjoyed approval ratings over 60% - comfortable, respectable. In 2026, their approval rating is 42%, disapproval 57% - nearly a full

OPEN SPACE

KATHY HERALD-MARLOWE

reversal. The Court has lost the trust of a majority of the nation, 69% are in favor of term limits for Justices versus lifetime appointments. The stability of the law is in question. Many cases have been overturned, some cases have been decided with extraordinary outcomes for money in elections, for immunity from prosecution for the executive.

In 2010, the Supreme Court announced a decision, so contentious that it had to be re-argued, that overturned bans on corporate independent expenditures to favor unlimited corporate expenditures in elections. In 2016, total expenditures on Presidential and Congressional elections was up from \$7 billion in 2008 to \$18.3 billion boosted by super PACS and dark money whose donors were non-disclosed. Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission has transformed campaigns and impacted election outcomes. The Roberts Court ruled 5-4 with Roberts writing the opinion.

Voting rights have been struck down by three Supreme Court cases: Shelby

County v. Holder (2013), Students for Fair Admissions v Harvard (2023) and Louisiana v. Callais (2026). The first decision eliminated requirements that certain states with histories of discrimination obtain federal preclearance before changing their voting laws. The Harvard case bans Affirmative Action for admissions. The final Louisiana decision limits the Voting Rights Act.

Roberts in his opinion in 2013 wrote: "The conditions that originally justified these measures no longer characterize voting in the covered jurisdictions." The Roberts Court ruled 5-4 then 6-3.

Dobbs V Jackson Women's Health Organization overturned Roe v Wade reaffirmed by the Supreme Court on four occasions. The Roberts Court ruled 6-3 with a scathing majority opinion written, leaked by Samuel Alito. Abortion is favored by 80% of Americans.

The nation continues to reel as the Supreme Court ruled that all former presidents possess absolute immunity for their core constitutional powers and immune from all official acts. The decision is broadly opposed as it undermines the principle that no one is above the

law. The Roberts Court ruled 6-3 with the majority opinion written by Roberts.

Supreme Court overturned decisions have also impacted guns as well as the separation of church and state. An unusually high quantity of case have resulted in "shadow docket" findings which have no vote by the

Justices, no explanation, no opinion. Additionally, the Supreme Court has overturned a surprising number of lower courts decisions in favor of the current administration.

"Members of the Supreme Court have lifetime tenure because they're not supposed to do politics."

Ben Sasse

The conclusion of the 2025-2026 Supreme Court season is upon us. Expected is another major decision regarding birth right citizenship now guaranteed in Section 1 of the 14th Amendment. Unexpected may be the unfurling of a gigantic Trump poster on the Supreme Court's 92-foot "greek-temple" on First Avenue in DC. The Trump poster currently on the DOJ is 88 feet long – so a duplicate fits here even though such a Trump image would cover the west facade's declaration of "Equal justice under law." Not all would be bothered or even notice.

Kathy Herald-Marlowe
lives in Sharon.

THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

(USPS 303280)

An Independent Connecticut Newspaper

Published Weekly by LJMN Media, Inc.

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; Dan Dwyer, Chair

64 Route 7 North, Falls Village, CT 06031

P.O. Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039-9989

(860) 435-9873 • lakevillejournal.com • editor@lakevillejournal.com

Volume 129, Number 46 Thursday, June 18, 2026

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LJMN Media, Inc. Publishers of

The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News

Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.

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Subscription Rates - One Year: \$120.00 in Litchfield County, \$147.00 outside county Known Office of Publication: Lakeville, CT 06039-1688. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Lakeville, CT 06039. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to LJMN Media, Inc., PO Box 1688, Lakeville, Connecticut 06039-1688.

BISTRO

Continued from Page A1



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Infinity Bistro opened its doors to the public Wednesday, June 10, presenting an American bistro menu to a town that has been without a dinner option for four months.

night of our restaurant's soft opening," she said, noting that the strong turnout was largely due to local residents. "We received great support from the local patrons who were excited to see the restaurant return."

Ludwig estimated that about 50 guests were served over the course of the evening.

She explained that the "soft opening" concept indicates that the business is still in the experimental phase as its services are rolled out.

"We're using the first two weeks to conquer any hurdles that arise from doing something new," she said, "and we appreciate the patience that our guests are currently showing, and we hope that continues."

The menu currently offers American bistro fare, including shareable starters, salads, sides and mains, plus a selection of local and macro brews and an expanding list of wines and spirits. Dishes range from a \$6 side salad or fries to the \$18 NVFD (Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department) Firehouse Burger, which comes stacked with bacon, onion rings and cheese sauce.

Ludwig said that the

menu remains a work in progress, and that she already had orders in for more wines and liquors as of Thursday afternoon.

She said the main adjustment will be the primarily QR code-based ordering system, designed to reduce wait times for rushed concert goers. While the restaurant will cater to the needs of the show audience, Ludwig said she remains committed to prioritizing its role as a community restaurant in a town where the only other food service stops at 2 p.m.

"If you don't want to cook, come have a burger," Ludwig said. "Come sit at the bar, have some wings – enjoy some time in town."

Dining alongside his Norfolk-resident parents, Starling Childs said the speed with which the restaurant opened – conceived in late January and publicly announced less than a month ago during a packed public meeting – demonstrated "the flexibility and collaboration that makes Norfolk such a special place."

His father, also Starling Childs, chimed in with a grin. "I'm just happy to be back in an air-conditioned, lovely space."

As she chatted with patrons, bartender Leah Muller said the restaurant fills a much needed gap in dining options for locals and concert goers alike. "We don't even have a Dunkin' Donuts you can breeze through," she said. "It's 15 minutes one way or 15 the other."

David Parks, the music venue's head of security and an announcer, expressed his relief to have the restaurant back as he stood up from his meal. "You get to just depart once and have a great dinner and a show," he said, thinking of concert goers who previously would have relied on the Norfolk Pub for a nearby dinner option before it closed at the end of January. "It's a music and arts town, and this just adds to it," he said.

Assistant Bistro Manager Brenda Horsefield said she was happy to see the cozy restaurant room brought back to life: "The space is worthy of people having a good time and enjoying a meal."

Infinity Bistro is open Wednesday through Sunday for dinner service, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. with reservations, once they go live after the soft opening period, cutting off at 8:30 p.m.

SWSA

Continued from Page A1

the medium, 35-meter jump. A well drilled last week marks a milestone for the venue.

"We've never had running water before," said Barker on Saturday, June 13 at the hill as volunteers prepared for the next phase of the organization's evolution. He said it's been talked about for years.

Though the running water will not be used for snow-making – Barker said the current operation relies on aging cisterns while SWSA devel-

ops plans for a future pond – it will support major events and will also make summer jumping possible.

Barker had samples of ceramic and plastic materials on hand. The plastic, he said, is called a shingle and will be attached to the landing hill in rows of eight. Installing them will take SWSA volunteers just a couple of days.

The ceramic tiles are being attached to the jump tower and must be screwed in, one at a time. Barker knows exactly how many there are – 680 – because he did the work.

He said one advantage of

the ceramic tiles is that they make it unnecessary to add snow to the jump tower in the winter.

Not only will the water come in handy for off-season ski jumping, but also for big events like the Jane Lloyd Fund clambake set to take place in late July.

SWSA hopes to get its summer jumping activities underway by the end of July or beginning of August. Barker said there will likely be about two dozen participants, all youngsters from the Tri-State area who have been regular SWSA participants for years.

HOSPITAL

Continued from Page A1

is a powerful reflection of the exceptional work happening every day at Sharon Hospital," hospital president Christina McCulloch said. "I am incredibly proud of our caregivers, clinicians and team members, whose dedication to patient safety, quality and compassion continues to strengthen the health of the communities we serve."

Sharon Hospital was one of seven Northwell Health hospitals to receive five-star rating this year. This recognition comes a month after Sharon Hospital received an "A" grade from The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit watchdog organization focused on hospital quality and safety.

Realtor® at Large

A new law that took effect in Connecticut on May 20th requires all kayaks, canoes, and stand-up paddleboards to have the owner's contact information on them. Under Connecticut Public Act 26-60, all unregistered vessels in Connecticut are now required to be identified, including all paddlecraft. The information required is name of owner, address and two phone numbers. The reason is to help emergency responders to quickly determine if there is a real emergency or simply a lost boat!



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We're expanding our digital reach, publishing online throughout the week, and offering several highly popular newsletters.
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12TH | SUNDAY

3-on-3 Basketball Tournament and Cornhole Tournament

13TH | MONDAY

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14TH | TUESDAY

HVRTA Outdoor Classroom Grand Opening Ceremony

15TH | WEDNESDAY

Lawn Party at the Millerton Inn

16TH | THURSDAY

Summer Stroll hosted by the Millerton Business Alliance, Comedy Show in Eddie Collins Memorial Park

17TH | FRIDAY

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Millerton's 175th Fair

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- Step back in time and visit Irondale Schoolhouse
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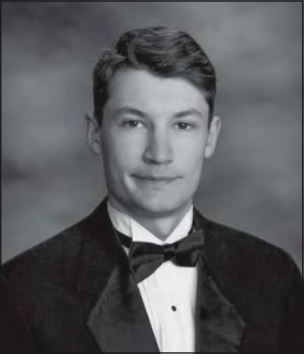
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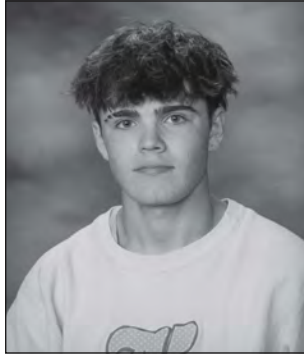
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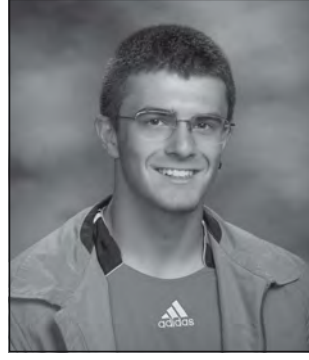
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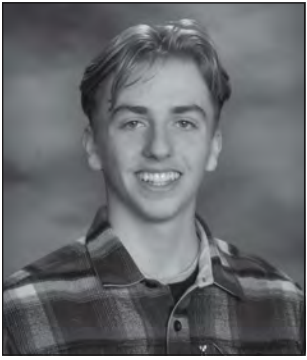
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MIKE MOORE

Continued from Page A1

feet. He was also talking about marriage after more than six months in a committed relationship.

For many who knew both Moore and Bushnell, the allegations remain difficult to reconcile. The two men had known each other since their days at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, worked together for years and remained close friends.

"They were best friends," Moises Reyes, a painter who was employed by Moore, said.

Friends say Moore and Bushnell spoke daily, shared workers on larger jobs, consulted one another on estimates and occasionally helped each other financially when business slowed.

One friend and fellow painter, who has known both men since childhood but didn't want his name disclosed, said Bushnell served as a mentor to Moore as the younger contractor built his own business.

"Cole was like a mentor to him," the friend said. "Whatever job one got, they would run it by the other."

Friends said it was not uncommon for the two men to loan each other money when cash flow tightened, a reality of running small contracting businesses.

"I saw it both ways," the friend said. "Mike would

help Cole. Cole would help Mike."

That history has left many searching for answers.

"I don't understand how it happened," the friend said.

Rebuilding his life

Those closest to Moore acknowledge that he struggled with addiction during his younger years and had several encounters with the criminal justice system. But friends say those challenges became the foundation of a turnaround.

After becoming sober, Moore focused on rebuilding his life, establishing his own business and gaining sole custody of Lucian nearly four years ago.

"He got clean. He got his son back," said Joey St. John, who worked for Moore but had been friends with him for nearly a decade.

Friends describe that achievement as one of Moore's proudest accomplishments. They say much of what he did in recent years revolved around creating stability for his son. Lucian's mother, they said, had her own personal struggles.

A father first

By all accounts, Lucian was the center of Moore's life.

Friends describe him as a single father whose daily routine revolved around his son. He dropped him off at



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MURRAY

The greenhouse at the Ashley Falls property, where Michael Moore's body was allegedly found.

daycare in Winsted most days and picked him up at the end of the day.

Friends say Moore worked hard to regain custody of Lucian and was devoted to raising him.

"Lucian loved his daddy more than anything," said Jacklyn Evon, whose husband grew up with Moore and was a friend.

Her husband, Bryan, attended Kellogg Elementary School in Falls Village with Moore in the 1990s, when there were only about 10 children in the grade, with just three being boys.

"They were like brothers," she said, noting that Moore gave a lively speech at their wedding.

Following Moore's death, friends and family members have rallied around Moore's son.

Evon launched a GoFundMe campaign noting that Moore was Lucian's sole caregiver, provider and primary source of support. The fundraiser seeks to help cover counseling, educational expenses, daily needs and long-term financial support for the boy.

"No amount can replace Michael or erase the pain of this loss," the fundraiser states. "However, together we can help ease some of the burdens that now lie ahead for Lucian."

The GoFundMe had generated about \$18,000 in

a week, with about 150 contributors.

Evon said that Lucian has a strong foundation but there is uncertainty ahead.

A crew left behind

Moore's death has also left his workers grieving and uncertain about the future.

Many of the people Moore employed were themselves rebuilding their lives after addiction, incarceration or other setbacks.

Reyes said Moore gave him an opportunity after he completed rehabilitation in 2025 and began trying to turn his life around.

"He uplifted me," Reyes said. "He pointed me in a better direction. I am completely heartbroken by this."

Reyes said Moore believed in him and helped him develop skills that allowed him to earn a better living. Reyes was working at Burger King in Torrington before Moore hired him.

"If my motivation went down, he would help me," Reyes said.

Today, Reyes is still trying to process the loss.

"It's hard to wake up in the morning and concentrate," he said, who now has to find a new job. "Every 30 minutes I feel grief."

Meanwhile, St. John was also recovering from addiction and needed a job. "He's like, 'I'll give you some days,

come work for me.' I said: 'All right.'"

St. John said he became friends with Moore through their shared love of music and Moore's passion for playing guitar.

Fernando, who didn't provide his last name but worked for Bushnell, said he is struggling to process the alleged homicide and is now in therapy. He was the employee who was allegedly shown Moore's body by Bushnell on June 1.

St. John, who had planned to spend the summer working for Moore, has been making deliveries through DoorDash while searching for another job.

Others remain uncertain about what comes next.

Coworkers say Moore looked after his crew, bought lunch, solved problems and treated employees with respect.

Remembering the man they knew

Many of Moore's friends say his death came at a time when he appeared to have found a path forward.

They said the timing of his death was tragic, since he had got back on track and had rebuilt his life around his family and work.

"He poured all of his energy into his son," Evon said. "And whatever he had left, he put into his business."

TIMELINE

Continued from Page A1

According to Reyes, Moore hugged Bushnell when he arrived.

The gesture struck him only in hindsight. At the time, nobody thought anything of it.

The two men often left jobsites together to inspect potential work, prepare estimates, collect payments or discuss upcoming projects.

"They did it all the time," St. John recalled.

Both St. John and Reyes said they saw Moore leave in Bushnell's truck. Moore left his vehicle behind and told workers they were heading to New Marlborough, Massachusetts, to look at a job.

Reyes expected Moore to return later in the day as he typically did. Instead, it would be the last time he saw him alive.

Coworkers said Moore was a devoted father who routinely picked up his 7-year-old son from daycare after work. His failure to return would later alarm them.

A call to New Marlborough

While Moore and Bushnell were together, Bushnell's crew was working the first day of a project in New Marlborough.

Among them was Fernando, who didn't provide his last name and who had worked for Bushnell for roughly 2½ years after previously working for Moore.

Fernando said Bushnell called and texted him around 11:45 a.m., asking him and the rest of the crew to come to his Ashley Falls home. Bushnell told them there was pizza and urged them to hurry because he had somewhere else to be.

"A normal day, priming walls," Fernando said of the work they had been doing before receiving the message.

The greenhouse

Fernando said they arrived at Bushnell's property on Polikoff Road at around 12:30 p.m.

The first thing he noticed was a damaged fence. The workers were asked to repair a fence post and began unloading tools.

Then Fernando noticed blood on Bushnell's face.

"When I see Cole, I see blood on his face," Fernando said.

"What happened? What happened?" he recalled asking.

At first, Fernando thought Bushnell had been involved in an accident.

Soon after, Fernando said Bushnell allegedly told him, "I've got a problem. Let me show you something."

Bushnell led him to a small greenhouse behind the house and the door was closed behind him.

According to Fernando, Bushnell lifted a mattress inside the greenhouse, revealing what Fernando described as a body wrapped in a tarp.

Fernando said he asked who it was.

According to Fernando, Bushnell allegedly responded: "It's Mike."

"I said, 'What?'" Fernando recalled.

"It's Mike," Bushnell repeated, according to Fernando.

"I said, 'What happened? What are you doing?'"

Bushnell reportedly replied: "This is not your problem, it's my problem."

Fernando said he was shaken and wanted to leave immediately. He said the other workers never saw Moore's body.

Fernando and the crew then left the property.

Fernando said he had no idea what had occurred before his arrival. However, Bushnell and Moore never arrived in New Marlborough.

Fernando then got into his van with his workers and drove to Troop B in North Canaan, less than two miles from Bushnell's home. They arrived at Troop B before 1:30 p.m.

According to authorities, Bushnell followed Fernando and his colleagues in his vehicle but stopped after they pulled over on the side of the road. Once he drove away, they continued to the state police barracks.

District Attorney Shugrue later confirmed much of the timeline, including that a worker had been shown Moore's body under a mattress in a greenhouse after

arriving at the property.

Acting strange

According to reports, Bushnell's fiancée said he appeared normal Monday morning. By noon, however, he seemed agitated.

She also told authorities, according to court records, that she received a text message from him telling her not to come home. Furthermore, she told police that Bushnell had been acting strangely and appeared paranoid in the days leading up to June 1.

Waiting for Mike

Back in Lakeville, workers grew concerned when Moore failed to return.

St. John said he called Moore twice around 2:30 p.m. to tell him he had to leave for a dentist appointment but received no response.

By about 4 p.m., Reyes said repeated attempts to reach Moore had also failed.

Reyes said he then called Bushnell directly.

"Where's Mike?" Reyes recalled asking.

According to Reyes, Bushnell responded, "I don't f---ing know," before ending the conversation.

For the workers, the answer made little sense. Moore had left the jobsite with Bushnell that morning. They grew worried when he never made it back.

Police become involved

Connecticut troopers notified the Sheffield Police Dept., who responded to the Polikoff Road property and secured the scene before contacting the Berkshire District Attorney's Office.

District Attorney Shugrue said that Moore was fatally assaulted inside the greenhouse and his body was then placed under the mattress.

At Bushnell's arraignment, prosecutors said Moore suffered blunt-force trauma to the head and lacerations to his back, likely caused by a small knife.

However, Shugrue said

last week that there were additional injuries, including wounds to his legs. "Lower legs and other parts of the body. He was struck and stabbed multiple times."

Shugrue also said that investigators have recovered what they believe were the weapons used in the attack.

"There have been weapons recovered, but I'm not going to comment more on that, other than that they're being forensically tested, and there's significant amounts of material on those weapons."

Bushnell was arrested June 1 and charged with murder. He was arraigned June 2. He has pleaded not guilty and remains held without bail.

Bushnell was not home when police first arrived.

Investigators arrested him when he returned to the property at 5:23 p.m. after being told there was a fire there, though no fire had occurred. Authorities believe confusion among nearby residents who saw emergency vehicles at the scene may have led to reports of a fire, prompting Bushnell's return.

Court records state that when Bushnell returned, he was wearing clothing stained with a reddish-brown substance consistent with blood. He was taken into custody without incident.

According to court records, Bushnell had asked his fiancée the Friday before Moore's death for access to the surveillance cameras at his home. The cameras had been in place for some time, and she told investigators he had never asked before.

On June 1, she noticed the cameras had been turned off and were facing different directions.

Questions remain

Although investigators have outlined portions of the case in court, many questions remain unanswered.

Authorities have not publicly disclosed the full se-

quence of events between the time Moore left the Lakeville jobsite and the time Fernando arrived at Bushnell's Ashley Falls home.

Shugrue has said investigators continue to gather evidence and await additional forensic results. However, investigators have noted that Moore and Bushnell went to the Ashley Falls property alone.

Investigators believe the dispute centered on money from a job that Moore and Bushnell were working on together. Shugrue said Moore was expecting to receive a \$10,000 payment on June 1 related to the job, but Bushnell collected the money on May 31.

According to investigators, Bushnell believed Moore had been stealing from him and decided to get the payment. Shugrue said he believes Moore was unaware Bushnell had collected the money until the day of his

death.

Investigators found no evidence that Moore had stolen from Bushnell.

"He thought Mr. Moore was stealing from him," Shugrue said. "That did not appear to be the case."

What's next

Bushnell remains held without bail and is scheduled to return to Southern Berkshire District Court on July 16.

Prosecutors plan to present the case to a Berkshire County grand jury. If an indictment is issued, the case will move to Berkshire Superior Court in Pittsfield for a trial.

Shugrue said the case was particularly tragic because Moore and Bushnell had been friends since high school and were both fathers.

"A poor man has lost his life, and he's got a young child, and a man who had a child as well is incarcerated, so it's a very sad situation."

Early Deadline

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PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Izzy Fitch at Battle Hill Forge in Wassaic.

Forged by curiosity

Art, craftsmanship and big fun with Izzy Fitch

By Natalia Zukerman

A steel praying mantis stands among garden accents at Battle Hill Forge in Wassaic, its folded forelegs ready for prayer and mischief in equal measure.

"She's very nice," said blacksmith, sculptor and Battle Hill Forge owner Izzy Fitch, patting the giant insect affectionately. Then he added, "Just don't go out to dinner with her."

The giant metal mantis, built by artist Jim Hackett, is now part of a summer contest Fitch devised. He'll strap it to the roof rack of his car and drive it around. When people spot it, they can take a photo, post it on social media and tag @battlehillforge, @lakevillejournal and

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

FOOD

Stonewood Farm launches chefs in residence program

By Natalia Zukerman

Stonewood Farm in Millbrook is expanding its educational and community food programs this summer with the launch of a new Chefs in Residence program, an eight-week immersion that brings culinary professionals to the nonprofit farm to live, cook, teach and work alongside farmers.

The program is led by Kristen Essig, Stonewood's director of culinary outreach and development, an award-winning chef whose background includes work with Emeril Lagasse and multiple James Beard Award nominations.

"This is an opportunity for chefs to step outside the traditional restaurant environment and engage with farming, food access and community outreach," Essig said.

The idea grew out of Stonewood's broader mission and from a model more commonly associated with art-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

INSIDE

OUR TOWNS

Women were sewn into the fabric of colonial history

CALENDAR

A list of upcoming events

COMMUNITY

Juneteenth graduation celebrates Berkshire's next generation of leaders

By Natalia Zukerman

When designer Abigail Horace joined the Blackshires Leadership Accelerator, she was looking for support as the founder of the Black Berkshires Social Club, which creates culturally grounded social spaces for Black and BIPOC residents in the region. What she found was something deeper: a community of peers invested in one another's success.

"Finding Blackshires has been transformative," Horace said. "Being a BIPOC founder in this region can feel isolating, and this community has changed that. They see my work, champion my business and have opened doors I couldn't have opened alone."

Horace is one of 13 fellows graduating from the Blackshires Leadership Accelerator on Juneteenth, June 19, at Ventfort Hall in Lenox. The free public ceremony marks the completion of a months-long civic and entrepreneurial leadership program created by the Blackshires Community Empowerment Foundation and R3SET Enterprises.

Founded in response to conversations among Berkshire County's Black leaders about economic opportunity, representation and community development, Blackshires has grown into a BIPOC-led network focused on leadership development, economic empowerment and cultural equity. The organization's flagship Leadership Accelerator combines civic engagement, entrepreneurship, storytelling, networking and project development to help



PHOTO PROVIDED

Cohort 2026 members Abigail Horace, Adam Liccardi, Adrian Lynch, Cameo Brown, Chauncey Dozier, Claudette Grant, Erline Saintilet, Harmony Edwards, Kamayue Gomes, Mackenzie Colvin, Otis West, Shadre Domingo, TJ West and Tyeesha Keele-Kedroe and Blackshires' leadership team John Lewis, Patrick Danahey, Dubois Thomas and Julie Haagenson gather at the Blackshires City Hall Fishbowl alongside Mayor Peter Marchetti and city officials Michael Obasohan, Brandon Gill, Katherine VanBramer, Heather Brazeau, Justine Dodds and Jesse Tobin McCauley.

participants turn ideas into action. Since its launch, the program has graduated more than 40 fellows and distributed more than \$100,000 in grants and stipends.

The 2026 cohort includes entrepreneurs, educators, artists and community advocates whose projects address needs across the Berkshires.

Among them are Adrian Lynch of Stubborn Ibex Studios, Claudette Grant's Reckless Optimism Women's Circle, Erline Saintilet's Caribbean-inspired food venture Carib In-Fusion, the Westside Crosswalk Remix Project led by Otis and Tajare West in Pittsfield,

and Tyeesha Keele Kedroe's Seen & Celebrated initiative, which promotes meaningful representation of Black and Brown children in early childhood classrooms.

For Horace, one of the program's most important lessons has been recognizing the impact of her own work.

"Creating a network of BIPOC leaders and entrepreneurs has revealed something I didn't fully see before: the real reach of my work and what it means in this community," she said. "My peers look up to me, believe in me and show up for every milestone. That recognition has shifted how I understand

my own impact and leadership."

The Accelerator culminates with each fellow creating an Impact Charter, a blueprint for how their project will contribute to the community. Participants also take part in leadership retreats, workshops, civic forums and site visits throughout Berkshire County. The program was recognized by 1Berkshire with its 2023 Breaking the Mold Trendsetter Award.

John Lewis, president of the Blackshires Accelerator and CEO of R3SET Enterprises, said the program is designed to remove barriers and strength-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

ART

Unexpected subjects, familiar beauty in new Kent exhibits

By D.H.Callahan

Kent Barns was alive with art on Saturday, June 13, as three new shows opened at Peggy Mercury and Kenise Barnes Fine Art, featuring a variety of fascinating paintings and drawings from four local artists.

Peggy Mercury, which in just two years has earned a reputation for curating remarkable collections of fine beauty products and accessories, continues to find exciting art to complement its offerings. The new show, "Portraits," features four pairs of paintings by Millerton-based artist Alexis England. The "portraits" she paints, however, feature some pretty unexpected sitters.

England chooses some undercelebrated species, including the tarantula, vampire bat and even the lobster, and gives them the treatment she feels they deserve on large canvases with bold, vibrant colors.

The pairings work as delightful foils, as England inverts her color palettes within each duo.

The pinks of the elegant flamingo serve as the background for the imposing stoicism of its partner, the mandrill. In turn, the mandrill's deep grays set a dark canvas from which the flamingo can pop, its feathers

flourishing in the juxtaposition. The results tie the unexpected couplings together while allowing each species to maintain its own visual identity.

Just steps away, the gallery at Kenise Barnes Fine Art

opened two distinct shows in one packed room. On one side hangs "Behind My Eyes" by artists Gregory Hennen and David Konigsberg, both of whom

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3



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... Izzy Fitch

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

@themillertonnews. At the end of the contest, names will be drawn at random and gift certificates to Battle Hill Forge will be awarded.

"It's just for fun," said Fitch, whose work often blurs the boundaries between art, utility and play. "Who couldn't use more fun these days?"

Fitch moves through his sprawling workshop spaces like an enthusiastic museum guide leading visitors through a collection he forgot he owned. Every few steps, something catches his attention. A hand-forged daffodil. A dragonfly. A prototype trellis. A powder horn his great-grandfather taught him to make. A concrete toad inherited from his grandmother.

"Oh, this is cool," he says, veering off course.

A few minutes later:

"Oh, I forgot to show you this."

Then:

"You want to see something really cool?"

The tour never quite follows a straight line.

Neither does Fitch.

Long before Battle Hill Forge became known for custom gates, garden structures and sculpture found everywhere from private estates to major cultural institutions, Fitch was a child building armor for toy animals.

"I had a Black Panther that was this big and I armored it," he says, holding his hands a few inches apart. "I made all my little people and creatures, and I armored them all up and I made all the weapons for them."

Fitch's father was a logger. Tools were plentiful. Toys were not.

"He wouldn't buy us toys really, so we would have to make our own."

The family business, if there was one, was making things.

His great-grandfather was



PHOTO BY MADI LONG

Izzy Fitch

"I'm not really inventing anything new. I just tweak it a little bit."

IZZY FITCH

a master craftsman who made Windsor chairs in collaboration with his uncle, Bert Fitch. His father supplied the raw materials, Bert made the chairs, his great-grandfather carved the spindles. His relatives were renowned woodworkers. People would travel from far and wide to have his great grandfather make handles for them.

"I really learned a lot from spending time with my grandparents and my great-uncles," he says.

Today, that inheritance is visible everywhere inside the forge.

Giant steel pumpkins wait beside elegant peony supports. Honeycomb sculptures support an endearing bee also made by Hackett. Giant orbs loom playfully. Metal mushrooms, used in classes Fitch teaches to children, line the windowsills.

Many are prototypes. Some are commissions. Some exist simply because Fitch thought they might be fun to make.

"I just think of something

cool," he says. And then he makes it.

"Most of the metalworkers that I work with don't want to talk to people," he says. "They're like, 'Just tell us what you want. Give me the plans and I'll make it.'"

Fitch is different. Part craftsman and part translator, he enjoys helping clients discover what they want before it exists.

Unless, of course, he's distracted by a frog story.

The previous Battle Hill Forge location, in Millerton, included a small pond where Fitch often ate lunch.

"There was a dead mouse out there one time," he recalls. "This frog was so clever. He would sit near the dead mouse and when flies came down, he would get a fly."

He watched the frog for an entire lunch break.

The story arrived somewhere between explanations of Japanese patinas and custom railings.

It also explains a lot. Fitch notices everything: plants, insects, old tools, odd solutions, clever engineering tricks. His work is filled with observations gathered from gardens, forests, old European designs and conversations with other makers.

A peony support isn't just a peony support. It's an opportuni-

ty to improve something. A trellis isn't just a trellis. Maybe it can come apart for shipping. Maybe it can help a plant grow differently. Maybe it can do something no one has considered before.

"I'm not really inventing anything new," he says. "I just tweak it a little bit."

After its beginning in Falls Village, moving to Millerton and eventually settling in Wassaic, Battle Hill Forge has become one of the region's success stories. The shop is booked months in advance. Projects range from garden ornaments to monumental railings weighing hundreds of pounds. Designers seek him out. Gardeners collect his work.

Yet Fitch remains most animated when discussing collaboration.

The intern helping in the shop first met him as a student in one of his metalworking classes. Local glass artists add to his sculptures. Garden designers have helped refine his plant supports. For Burning Man this summer, he's joining a team of fellow artists to build an installation featuring an oculus and a pair of metal sphinxes.

"We'll have a little party," he says.

The phrase could describe half the projects in the shop, especially the praying mantis. Technically, that sculpture belongs to Hackett.

"He makes all this cool stuff," Fitch says. "I sell them for him because he's one of those artists who doesn't want to deal with the public."

Fitch laughs.

"Which is totally smart."

Outside, a dog wanders through the yard. A timber framer works next door. Metal rusts into beautiful shades of brown. New ideas wait in various stages of completion and there's just a little magic around every corner.

To contact Battle Hill Forge, visit battlehillforge.com.



PHOTO BY MICHELLE ALFANDARI

Eric Mendelson, owner of Salisbury Garden Center, stands with a selection of keystone native plants now available through a partnership with Homegrown National Park.

Local garden centers spotlight keystone plants

The Ungardener from May 13 was about a specific group of native plants called keystone plants. These are the ecosystem workhorses of our environment; they are essential to the survival of many animals that rely on them for food. Nutrition in this case includes, but goes beyond, nuts and pollen. It is the leaves of keystone native plants that make them superheroes. These leaves are essential to the survival of butterfly and moth caterpillars that, in their larval state, will eat only the leaves of very specific native plants.

And in this case, eating leaves is a good thing because caterpillars are relied upon by birds to feed their hatchlings. A single baby bird will be fed approximately 3,000 caterpillars from hatching to fledging; for most species, caterpillars are the sole source of food until they leave the nest. As native plants decrease, which they rapidly are, so do the numbers of caterpillars that rely on them. And as caterpillars decrease, so do the numbers of birds that rely on them.

Planting keystone species goes a long way toward restoring food webs: a serviceberry, or shadblow tree, supports 119 caterpillar species, pussy willow supports more than 400 and oak supports more than 500. While these particular plants are not hard to find in nurseries, other keystone plants, such as highbush blueberry and smooth blue aster, can be difficult to find at retail. Nurseries and garden centers tend to favor showier plants with greater shelf presence.

I dwell on the topic of keystone plants because Homegrown National Park, the organization co-founded by scientist and author Doug Tallamy, whose research on caterpillars led to our understanding of native plants' role in food webs, and Sharon resident Michelle Alfandari, is partnering with three garden centers in the Northwest Corner to specifical-

ly improve something. A trellis isn't just a trellis. Maybe it can come apart for shipping. Maybe it can help a plant grow differently. Maybe it can do something no one has considered before.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

ARCHITECTURE

A rare look inside Connecticut's Colonial-era homes

By Natalia Zukerman

For anyone who has ever stopped to admire an old house and wonder what it looks like inside, HisTOURy's Colonial Home Tour on June 20 offers a rare opportunity.

The four-hour guided tour will take participants inside four private colonial-era homes in Salisbury and Falls Village while highlighting another 20 historic properties along the route. Presented as part of HisTOURy's series marking America's 250th anniversary, the tour explores the architecture and history of northwestern Connecticut's colonial settlement period.

Allison Casazza, HisTOURy's tour research and production manager, said selecting homes involves a combination of research and experience.

"We have really well-trained eyes to say, 'I think this would be a good house,'" she said. "And then we approach the homeowners and take it from there."

Interior stops include

the Samuel Robbins House, considered one of Falls Village's finest examples of Federal-style architecture, and an 18th-century home once occupied by the sister of Noah Webster. The homes featured on the tour represent several architectural traditions from the colonial era, including vernacular farmhouses, Cape Cod houses and Federal-style dwellings.

"There's a lot of symmetry in colonial architecture," Casazza said. "The homes are much simpler in terms of how much ornamentation you can expect on them."

Many of the architectural forms brought by settlers from England and Holland evolved in response to local conditions, she explained.

"They were bringing the styles that they knew," Casazza said, "and then adapting them to local needs based on available materials and the harsher climate of the Northeast."

Founded by preservationist Georgette Blau,



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Hollister House, aka Whitbeck Estate, is believed to have been built circa 1780.

HisTOURy focuses on cultural heritage tourism and historic preservation. The tours combine architectural history, local history and discussions about preservation with the opportunity to visit buildings that are rarely open to the public.

"What we do would fall into the category of cultural heritage tourism," Casazza said.

"We're talking about these historic things with the purpose of promoting how much people understand them, how much people appreciate them, and hopefully planting the seeds to keep them thinking about preserving these places."

The homeowners themselves are often part of the experience. Casazza said many par-

ticipate simply because they enjoy sharing the homes they have restored and maintained.

"They're all wonderful people that are just excited about living in a historic home," she said. "They love it so much that they want to show it to a bunch of strangers."

When homeowners are present, visitors hear firsthand about restoration projects, maintenance challenges and daily life in centuries-old houses.

"It means a lot to hear from them," Casazza said.

The Colonial Home Tour runs from 2 to 6 p.m. on June 20. Information and tickets are available at history.org

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COMMUNITY

Books & Blooms returns with gardens, poetry and a summer evening party

By Natalia Zukerman

One of Cornwall's most anticipated summer traditions returns June 20 and 21 when the Cornwall Library presents the 11th annual Books & Blooms, a two-day celebration of gardens, literature and community.

Part garden tour, part literary event and part neighborhood gathering, Books & Blooms begins Friday evening with a talk by acclaimed editor, poet and author Jonathan Galassi at Cornwall Town Hall. Galassi, former president and publisher of Farrar, Straus and Giroux and one of the most influential figures in American publishing, will speak on "Writing about Place and Living with a Garden."

"Friday evening is fun because you start out listening to a learned and sometimes humorous take on your passion — or your partner's passion — gardening," said event organizer Kirk Van Tassel. "Then you proceed to the cocktail party on a beautiful evening, talking to friends old and new, including the speaker."

Galassi is the author of four poetry collections, including his latest, "The Vineyard," and has translated the works of Italian literary giants Giacomo Leopardi, Primo Levi and Nobel Prize winner Eugenio Montale. His poems have appeared in publications including The New Yorker, The Nation and The Three-penny Review.



A Cornwall garden featured on the Books & Blooms self-guided tour.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Following the presentation, guests can walk next door to the Cornwall Library for a cocktail reception featuring live music by the Crownback Funk Trio, whose performances blend funk, blues and jazz.

The festivities continue Saturday with self-guided tours of four private Cornwall gardens, three of them appearing on the tour for the first time.

The featured landscapes range from exuberant village plantings and a traditional country garden that blends seamlessly into its surroundings to a landscape designed for a

postmodernist icon and a contemporary ravine garden marked by dramatic sculptural elements.

"Every year the committee strives to find gardens that haven't been on the tour before," Van Tassel said. "This year three of the four are new, so you get that sense of discovery."

Part of the appeal, he said, is simply spending a summer day exploring Cornwall itself.

"Cornwall is a beautiful place in which to walk and drive around," Van Tassel said. "You've got farmland, rolling hills and quiet country roads."

The gardens also offer visitors a chance to learn from passionate gardeners and see a wide variety of approaches to landscape design.

"The four gardens on the tour are tended by people who love gardening and know a lot about it," Van Tassel said. "The gardens are beautifully kept and the grounds are often wonderful."

Books & Blooms serves as a benefit for the Cornwall Library, which has hosted the event for more than a decade. For tickets and information, visit the cornwalllibrary.org or call (860)672-6874

... Blackshires

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

en connections among emerging leaders.

"By removing barriers to success and encouraging a cooperative framework, the next generation of community leaders will be more connected and skilled in the ongoing development and revitalization of our community and its families," Lewis said.

Horace said the experience has reinforced a simple but powerful lesson.

"Being a leader and entrepreneur can be isolating, but this group has shown me that I am not alone."

The graduation ceremony will take place at Ventfort Hall, whose

history includes its mid-20th-century role as Festival House, a guesthouse and cultural center that welcomed Black and Jewish visitors at a time when many area resorts maintained discriminatory restrictions. On June 19, the mansion will provide a fitting backdrop for a celebration focused on leadership, community and the future of the Berkshires.

The Blackshires Leadership Accelerator Cohort 4 Graduation will be held Thursday, June 19, at Ventfort Hall Mansion and Gilded Age Museum in Lenox. Admission is free and open to the public.

... Kent exhibitions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

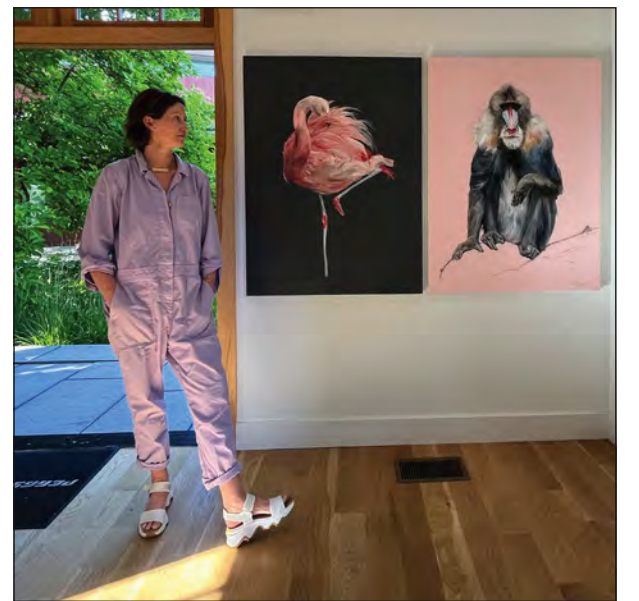


PHOTO BY D.H. CALLAHAN

Millerton-based artist Alexis England with her flamingo and mandrill portraits at Peggy Mercury in Kent.

have been represented by Kenise Barnes Fine Art for more than 20 years.

Konigsberg takes everyday items and abstracts them to a point of detached familiarity, giving light as much importance as the objects themselves. Hanging nearby is a series of landscapes painted in oils that seem as texturally considered as they are compositionally. "Each piece," Hennen said, "is about a landscape, not of a landscape, as it does not necessarily depict an exact site or location. Finished paintings are often composites of several images that have evolved from a realistic portrayal to a more simplistic interpretation."

The other side of the room features drawings by Margot Glass. Like England, Glass celebrates the undercelebrated. Her work frequently depicts weeds and other "undesirable" species of flora in elevated media such as

silverpoint and 14-karat goldpoint.

With this collection, titled "On This Fresh Morning," the artist takes a more naturalistic approach, using black walnut ink that she makes herself from walnuts she collects on hikes and walks in western and central Massachusetts. The ink is a remarkably rich hue of brown, which Glass layers to create floral scenes filled with intricate natural details. While she includes more traditional beauties, such as blooming anemones and daisies, she also features underappreciated misfits including dandelions and garlic mustard.

Kent's artistic footprint continues to expand, with at least five dedicated art galleries and boutiques contributing exceptional shows for art lovers throughout the Northwest Corner.

For a directory and gallery hours, visit kentbarnsct.com

...Stonewood Farm

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

ists and writers than chefs.

"There are artist residencies everywhere," Essig said. "But there are very few opportunities for chefs to have that same kind of dedicated time and space to think about their work outside the pressures of a restaurant."

Founded by Ken Holzberg and Tom Kopfensteiner, Stonewood Farm began as a wooded 15-acre property that the pair spent years building before launching agricultural operations in 2013. The farm became a nonprofit in 2021 and now combines organic farming, educational programming and food justice initiatives.

Among those efforts is the First Harvest Food Pantry, which distributed fresh produce and prepared foods to approximately 2,800 food-insecure neighbors during the 2025 growing season through partnerships with local organizations including Meals on Wheels.

The inaugural residency cohort includes two chefs with extensive national and international experience.

Jocelyn Ueng, a Taiwanese-Chinese American chef, forager and former nonprofit professional, arrives this week for the first session, which runs through Aug. 7. Ueng has cooked at renowned restaurants including Noma, The French Laundry and Satoyama Jujo, and is currently developing a Hudson Valley restaurant slated to open in 2027.

The second residency session, Aug. 17 through Oct. 9, will feature Chatham na-

tive Daniel Conkling, a Culinary Institute of America graduate whose career has included Restaurant Daniel in New York City, Battersby in Brooklyn and Seattle's L'Oursin. Conkling plans to lead workshops focused on food preservation, including pickling, canning and jam making.

In addition to cooking, the resident chefs will mentor Stonewood's culinary assistant, Gabriella Hernandez, participate in youth education programs, contribute to prepared-food outreach efforts and work directly with the farm's organic growing operation.

Essig said that connection to the land is central to the residency's purpose.

"The farm creates a different pace," she said. "Chefs spend so much time in kitchens that they don't always get to see the larger picture. Here they can spend time in the garden, work alongside farmers, participate in community programs and really think about what food can do."

The residency is one of several new and ongoing programs at Stonewood this season.

On July 11, the farm will host a flower-arranging workshop with Kate Farrar of Foxtrot Farm & Flowers. Additional workshops planned for later in the year include edible flower cake decorating and botanical pantry-making.

Stonewood's guest chef Sunday Harvest Dinner series continues June 28 with chef Jovana Urriola, followed by dinners fea-



PHOTO PROVIDED

Jocelyn Ueng is the first Chef in Residence at Stonewood Farm.

turing Andrea Reusing on July 26, Jill Mathias and Juan Cassalet on Aug. 23, and Christine Lau on Sept. 20. The dinners showcase produce grown on the farm alongside ingredients from regional producers.

Visitors can also attend Stonewood's seasonal on farm pop-up farm markets every other Friday, which offer freshly harvested vegetables, flowers, eggs, baked goods and prepared foods.

For Essig, the residency program reflects Stonewood's larger mission.

"Chefs have an important role to play in local food systems," she said. "We want to create opportunities for them to connect more deeply with agriculture, education and community service while continuing to develop their craft."

For information about upcoming events and programs, visit stonewoodny.org and follow @stonewoodny on Instagram.

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PHOTO BY ELLIE MCKISSICK

The Sharon Playhouse opens its 2026 MainStage season June 19, with “Swingtime Canteen,” a rousing celebration of the songs, spirit and resilience of WWII. Created by Linda Thorsen Bond, William Repicci and Charles Busch, the production features popular hit songs from the 1940’s and is directed by Playhouse Artistic Director Carl Andress, with choreography by Krystyna Resavy and music direction by Eric Thomas Johnson. Runs through July 5. Tickets at sharonplayhouse.org

Swingtime Canteen cast in rehearsal. Left to right, Lucy Rhoades (“Katie”), Claire Marie Spencer (“Topeka”), Michelle Lemon (“Lilly”), Margaret Dudasik (“Marian”), and Sarah Beth Palmer (“Jo”)

Tri-Corner Calendar

JUNE 18

Understanding AI and How to Use It with Stevo Ledbetter & Kat Zdan
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
5:30 to 7 p.m. Join Kat Zdan and Stevo Ledbetter to learn how AI systems are built and how to understand and engage with artificial intelligence. The program will also cover practical tips for safe, responsible and effective use, with time for audience questions. Registration requested at scovillelibrary.org.

Fragments

Saint James Place, 352 Main St., Great Barrington, Mass.
June 18 through July 5

Written and performed by Jim Petosa and directed by Judy Braha, *Fragments* explores one couple’s transformative journey through the AIDS pandemic. Set between 1985 and 1990, the play serves as a personal memoir and reflection on a pivotal moment in LGBTQ history. All performances are followed by conversations with Petosa, with select dates featuring guest speakers. For tickets and schedule information, visit greatbarringtonpublictheater.org

JUNE 19

Books & Blooms
Cornwall Town Hall & Cornwall Library, Cornwall, Conn.
June 19 to 21

The two-day garden-related event and benefit for the Cornwall Library is in its 11th year. The weekend begins Friday at 5 p.m. at Cornwall Town Hall with “Writing about Place and Living with a Garden,” a presentation by Jonathan Galassi, renowned editor, author and poet. The evening continues with a cocktail reception at the adjacent Cornwall Library, featuring live music by the Crownback Funk Trio, whose blend of funk, blues and jazz creates spontaneous, dynamic soundscapes. On Saturday, June 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the event continues with self-guided tours of four Cornwall gardens, both traditional and contemporary, three of them new to the tour. Purchase tickets at cornwalllibrary.org/books-blooms-2026/

JUNE 20

Below the Surface
Lisa Vollmer Photography, 325 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington, Mass.
Lisa Vollmer Photography presents *Below the Surface*, an exhibition of photography by Lisa Vollmer and Sabine von Falken inspired by the landscapes, architecture, and sacred waters of Mexico’s Yucatán Peninsula. The show explores themes of history, memory, identity, and the connections between visible and hidden worlds through images of Maya monuments, cenotes, and cultural symbols. An opening reception will be held June 20 from 3 to 6 p.m. The exhibition remains on view through Sept. 7. lisavollmer.com

Volunteer Day at Ayni Herb Farm

Ayni Herb Farm, 1989 County Route 11, Hillsdale, N.Y.
Join for a day of communing with plants, tending to the

land, and connecting with community. The intention for these days is to practice ayni, or reciprocity, with the land. These days are meant to be nourishing and filled with gratifying labor. See a detailed breakdown of the schedule and sign up at ayniherbfarm.com/gatherings

Legacy of a Wealthy Slave

Center on Main, 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn.
The David M. Hunt Library welcomes Connecticut storyteller Denise Manning Keyes Page to Center on Main on June 20 at 2 p.m. for a presentation of two parts of her trilogy, “Legacy of a Wealthy Slave.” Page recounts her mother’s orphaned childhood and her own discovery of her family history, tracing the remarkable life of her great-great-grandfather, Alfred C. Manning, a formerly enslaved man who purchased his freedom, moved to New Haven, patented an invention, acquired property, and sent two sons to Yale University, where they graduated in 1880 and 1881. Page will share more of Manning’s journey from enslavement to autonomy during the performance. huntlibrary.org

“Four Rational People” Screening & Q&A

The Moviehouse, 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y.
Director Tristan Cook and founding member of the Emerson String Quartet Eugene Drucker will participate in a discussion and Q&A following a screening of “Four Rational People,” a documentary chronicling the Emerson String Quartet’s final season after 50 years of performances and nine Grammy Awards. The film explores friendship, aging and the group’s enduring musical legacy. 7 p.m. For tickets and information, visit bit.ly/TMH-four-rational-people

A Day of Dance with Pilobolus at Innisfree

Innisfree Garden, 362 Tyrrel Road, Millbrook, N.Y.
10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Pilobolus and Innisfree Garden will present a daylong series of outdoor movement workshops for families, children, adults and older adults. Workshops include “Creative Movement for Families” at 10:30 a.m., “Family Alphabet Workshop” at 12:30 p.m., and “Connecting with Balance” for older adults at 2:30 p.m. Participants may register for one, two or all three sessions. Space is limited and advance registration is recommended at innisfreegarden.org/events.

Chore Service Garden Party

Skiff Mountain Farm, 3 West Woods Road, Kent, Conn.
Celebrating 34 years of service. 5 to 7 p.m. choreservice.org

JUNE 21

Annual Summer Solstice Feast at Foxtrot Farm & Flowers
Foxtrot Farm, 6862 Route 82, Stanfordville, N.Y.
Celebrate summer’s bounty with a feast in the flower fields at Foxtrot catered by West-erly Canteen. Start the night with drinks in the garden, then transition to the fields for a long-table feast, where Kate Farrar will create a table of early summer blossoms. 6 p.m. Reservations required at bit.ly/3RCFWYc

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

JUNE 23

Dine Out for a Cause
DaCapo of Litchfield, 625 Torrington Road, Litchfield, Conn.
Dine out at DaCapo of Litchfield from 5 to 9 p.m. and a percentage of the proceeds will support Housatonic Valley Association that works to protect the lands and waters of the Housatonic River Valley.

JUNE 24

Art Camp for Seniors
Mad Rose Gallery, 3 Main St., Millerton, N.Y.
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mad Rose Gallery’s Art Camp for Seniors is a social program designed to uplift and inspire older adults through movement, creativity and connection. Classes are held Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning June 24. The five-week session (10 classes) includes all art supplies, instruction and lunch. A one-day-per-week option is also available. For information or to register, email info@mad-rosegallery.com.

JUNE 25

Dine Out for a Cause
The White Hart, 15 Under Mountain Road, Salisbury, Conn.
Dine out at The White Hart and a percentage of the proceeds will support Housatonic Valley Association that works to protect the lands and waters of the Housatonic River Valley.

BUGS!

Foxtrot Farm, 6862 Route 82, Stanfordville, N.Y.
June 25 to 29
Foxtrot Farm & Flowers presents “BUGS!,” a group exhibition curated in partnership with artist and curator Charlotte Woolf exploring insects, ecology and interdependence. Featuring more than 40 artists from across the U.S. and Canada, the exhibition highlights the vital role bugs play in sustaining ecosystems, with a focus on queer ecology and environmental connection. Programming includes farm activities with Dutchess County Combworks, tattoo pop-ups, workshops, readings and an opening celebration with food from Chaseholm Farm, Thistlepass Farm and Fair Play Hospitality. The opening celebration takes place Friday, June 26, from 6 to 10 p.m.

JUNE 26

Connecticut Tunes and Tales of the Revolution
David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org
Musician and storyteller Kent Besocke presents “Connecticut Tunes and Tales of the Revolution” at 6 p.m. on the library lawn. Featuring songs and stories accompanied by guitar, banjo and mandolin, the program explores Connecticut’s role in the American Revolution. Bring chairs, blankets, food and beverages. Free.

Happy Hour Piano Series: Broadway Singalong with T.J. Thompson
American Mural Project, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn.
From 5 to 7 p.m., AMP’s monthly happy hour series features an audience-participation Broadway singalong with pianist T.J. Thompson, blending live music and liba-

tions in a casual, interactive setting. Tickets are \$8 in advance. americanmuralproject.org

JUNE 27

“Constance Old: Notes from My Kitchen, 2007–2026”
Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. cornwalllibrary.org
June 27 through Aug. 22
The Cornwall Library presents an installation of collages by Constance Old, created from self-adhesive stickers and upcycled materials, exploring themes of consumer excess, material reuse and contemporary life. An artist’s reception will be held June 27, 5–7 p.m. (in-person only). Registration is requested at 860-672-6874 or CornwallLibrary.org. The exhibit remains on view through Aug. 22.

... Ungardener

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

ly promote Tallamy-designated keystone plants. There it is — a solution, and a local one at that!

Ward’s Garden Center in Great Barrington, Salisbury Garden Center and Paley’s in Amenia are now carrying ample inventory of beautiful keystone trees, shrubs and flowering plants in addition to the native plants they regularly stock.

“Every year we have seen an increase in customers asking for and buying native plants, so this partnership with Homegrown National Park is a great extension of the demand we are already seeing,” said Eva Ward of Ward’s Garden Center.

When you arrive at one of these garden centers — and I hope you will go this week — look for the “Homegrown National Park Native Plant Center” banner. Individual plant signs help inform customers about each keystone plant: what it looks like in bloom, its best growing conditions and why it is critical to butterflies, birds and other wildlife, including humans.

At Paley’s, owner Sarah Coon finds the signage a big step forward.

“Our customers and staff can now easily identify the native plants that will thrive in their gardens,” she said.

QR codes can be scanned for more information about each plant and to get on the HNP Biodiversity Map, which documents the number of people and acres being transformed through native plantings. The map currently records nearly 50,000 people committing more than 170,000 acres to native planting.

For Homegrown National Park, this program is a pilot it would like to expand nationally.

“A core objective of HNP is to make it easier for people to get started and making it easy to shop for productive native trees, shrubs and perennials does just that,” said Alfandari. “The leaders of these garden centers are visionary catalysts for positive change. They are passionate about making a difference and spreading the facts about native plants to their customers.”

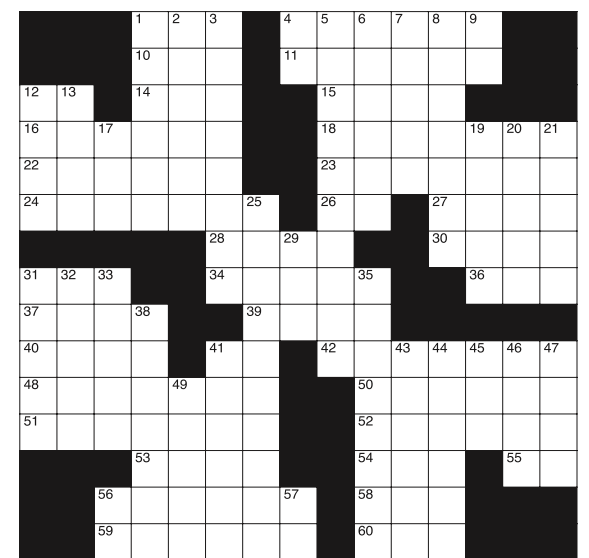
For more information, visit homegrownnational-park.org

Dee Salomon *ungardens* in Litchfield County.

Brain Teasers

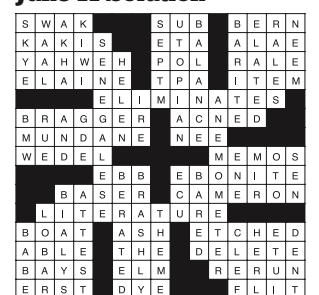
CLUES ACROSS

- Similar
- Have an ambitious plan or a lofty goal
- No (Scottish)
- ___ Aires, city
- Morning
- Senior’s son (abbr.)
- A notable achievement
- European nation
- Endings
- Puts into place
- Former
- Grenadier
- Sea patrol
- Algerian port
- Norwegian river
- Precipitation
- Sunscreen rating
- New York is one
- Patti Hearst’s captors
- Soft mineral with greasy feel
- Retired Brazilian footballer
- An Indian nursemaid
- Atomic #24
- Immobilize
- Insignia of royalty
- Seeds from which chocolate is made
- Begin again
- Round root
- Beginning to end (alt. sp.)
- What newlyweds just said
- Empire State
- Give back
- College hoops tournament
- Unstable situations
- Young women’s association

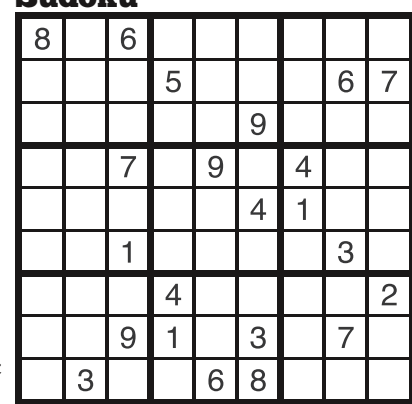


- Consume food
- California supermarket
- Electronic communication
- Cassia tree
- Written works
- Cool!
- Noteworthy 90s lawyer Kenneth
- One who was compensated
- National symbols
- Raising
- A type of talk
- Cloud
- Middle Eastern peoples
- Pouches
- 007’s creator
- A cut of meat
- Sports entertainment award
- Christine ___, actress
- Relief organization (abbr.)
- Canadian province (abbr.)

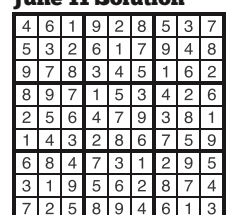
June 11 Solution



Sudoku



June 11 Solution



Level: Intermediate

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Our Towns

Flag flies over towering liberty pole in North Canaan

By Ruth Epstein

NORTH CANAAN – Residents reflected on the past, present and future of North Canaan during the raising of a liberty pole Saturday, June 13, recreating an act of resistance against British rule that first took place more than 250 years ago.

The reenactment marked the first time the flag had flown in centuries. The event was held in honor of the nation's 250th anniversary.

The patriotic celebration extended beyond the ceremony with a community picnic called "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Appleness" at Bunny McGuire Park. American favorites like hot dogs and apple pie were served.

Kathy Keane, the chair of the town's 250th Anniversary Committee, addressed a crowd that gathered on the grassy corner of Routes 44 and 7, near where the original flag raising took place in 1774.

"What will it be like 250 years from now?" Keane asked, reflecting on future generations. "Our greatest

resources are our kids. We need to celebrate our past and our future."

First Selectman Jesse Bunce welcomed attendees. He had cut down the tree, which was donated by a descendant of one of the town's first settlers, Isaac Lawrence, and formed it into the pole, placing it 10 feet into the ground to ensure its stability.

Historian Tim Abbott gave a synopsis of the pole's history. In June 1774, the Port of Boston was closed by the British in retaliation for the Boston Tea Party. The closure was part of the Intolerable Acts imposed upon the colonists, which included restrictions on property rights and the honoring of bills of credit.

"Connecticut folks began saying that if it can happen in Boston, it can happen here," Abbott said. "In August 1774, Canaan decided to show its dissent."

He said details of the Canaan liberty pole were gleaned from the Connecticut Courant. It was described as being 78-foot tall and 15-foot wide, dimensions replicated in the



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Reenactors raise a massive flag on the liberty pole Saturday, June 13, commemorating the patriotic demonstration that took place in Canaan before the Revolutionary War.

current pole. It was scarlet in color, with the words "LIBERTY and PROPER-TY" printed in large capital letters.

Abbott said many colonists believed their ability to govern their own affairs was being undermined by British authorities. The liberty pole served as a way of signaling that local residents felt neglected and

opposed policies being imposed from afar.

"We know it was put up around this spot," Abbott said. "It's also known that after the flag was raised, those involved went to a local tavern to toast their deed and then they went peaceably home."

Abbott also described the involvement of several Canaan residents in

storming the court house in Great Barrington in August 1774. The court was overseen by British-appointed Judge David Ingersoll, who was dragged to the Canaan pole, forced to recant his support for the King and later imprisoned in Hartford. The courts in Great Barrington remained closed for six years.

North Canaan res-

ident Christian Allyn spoke about the Canaan Exchange Club, which is celebrating its 100th year, and was one of the sponsors of the liberty pole installation. The club's motto is "Unity and service for patriotism."

Other sponsors were the Canaan History Center, the 250th Anniversary Committee and the town.

Colonial voices come to life in local cemeteries

By Ruth Epstein and Patrick L. Sullivan

NORTH CANAAN – Voices from Revolutionary War times welcomed guests to Cemeteries in Falls Village and North Canaan Sunday, June 14, as part of the towns' continuing 250th anniversary celebration of the Declaration of Independence.

At Grassy Hill Cemetery in Falls Village, members of the Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society dressed in period costumes, gave biographical information about residents who served in the armed forces and on the home front.

Throughout the presentations, the guides reminded visitors that at the time of the Revolution, the current towns of North Canaan and Falls Village were one town, called Canaan.

Johanna Mann spoke about Thomas Judd (1754-1846). Born in Danbury, Judd enlisted in 1775 and served in New York City, Fort Ticonderoga and Canada. He also participated in the 40-day siege and capture of Fort Saint Jean in Quebec in 1775.

Judd returned to Danbury and civilian life, only to rejoin to the army in April 1777 after the British burned the town.

He settled in Canaan in 1802.

Judy Jacobs, dressed as Betsy Ross, told the story of Major John Webb (1756-1829). A member of Gen. Horatio Gates' staff, Webb was present for two major events: the difficult winter of 1777-78 in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, when



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Bunny McGuire takes on the role of Abigail Burrall Lawrence at Mountain View Cemetery in North Canaan on June 14.

Gen. George Washington's troops were struggling with food shortages and freezing temperatures, and at West Point in 1780 when British spy master John Andre was captured trying to get back to the British lines after a meeting with American tractor Benedict Arnold.

Webb moved to Canaan in 1794.

Bill Beebe had several ancestors buried at Grassy Hill. "There are 45 Beebes buried here, and I'll be the 46th."

Beebe spoke in front of the headstones of Lt. Asahel Beebe (1731-1806), Capt. Daniel Beebe (1744-1821) and Isaac Beebe (1972-1833).

He noted that Asahel Beebe had 24 children, many with similar names.

At Mountain View Cemetery in North Canaan, Bunny McGuire took on the role of Abigail Burrall Lawrence, the widow of Nehemiah Lawrence, a member of the Lawrence family that settled in Canaan. In 1778, the Connecticut General Assembly appointed him captain of the

North Company of the Canaan Alarm Company,

which was not a regular military unit. Its members were charged with responding immediately when danger threatened.

"If an alarm was raised, they were to leave their homes, farms and businesses and march at once," said Lawrence's widow.

Pat Graf, speaking as Mary Rood, wife of Mariner Rood, Jr., described a town meeting held on Christmas Day 1780, when the citizens of Canaan elected Mariner to "class" the town.

That role carried great responsibility, she explained. "The town had to be assessed and organized so that men, provisions and resources could be fairly apportioned for the war effort."

Canaan may have been a rural community, but it was not insignificant in the war efforts. Farms supplied food to the Continental Army, iron furnaces produced materials essential to the war, and from the beginning of the revolution, the people of Canaan had shown strong support for the cause of American independence.



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Young "militia men" line up at Saturday's flag raising on the liberty pole in North Canaan.

A GIANT METAL MANTIS IS NOW PART OF A SUMMER CONTEST!



Izzy Fitch of Battle Hill Forge has strapped a giant mantis, built by artist Jim Hackett, to the roof of his car.

When you spot it, take a photo, post it on social media and tag @battlehillforge, @lakevillejournal and @themillertonnews.

On July 20, names will be drawn at random and gift certificates to Battle Hill Forge will be awarded.

Our Towns

North Canaan resident launches online hub linking shoppers with local farms

By Alec Linden

NORTH CANAAN – As consumers in the Northwest Corner often piece together groceries from a mix of grocery stores, farm stands and seasonal markets, a North Canaan mother is trying to make shopping a little easier. Sonya Reeve, a mother with a background in technology and sales, said she hopes to ease the interface between local farmers and buyers.

“If you do a two mile loop, you’re going to have probably 60% to 70% of your grocery order filled right from your neighbors,” Reeve said. “That’s kind of cool.”

When she noticed the gap between local consumers and producers, Reeve took matters into her own hands by launching NOCA Exchange, an online platform connecting farm producers and clean eaters across the region.

Just weeks old, the platform is still in its experimental phase, she said, but she’s looking forward to its future as more consumers and farmers join.

The website currently features a map and directory of farm stands and farmers markets across the region. Through an accompanying Facebook group, Reeve, local farmers and community members share updates about what products are in season and available for purchase.

As of June 12, Reeve said NOCA Exchange, named after her home town of North



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Ford Farm on Route 44 in East Canaan offers a variety of highway-side farm products.

Canaan, had about 17 farms on board, ranging from flow-ers to beef and beyond, plus a Facebook audience of more than 70.

The end goal, she said, is hopefully “a little resource for somebody who might want to go for a cruise on a Sunday afternoon and hit a back road” in search of wholesome goods. “Because who knew that there are turkey and quail eggs for sale in East Canaan, just off of 44!” she exclaimed.

Ultimately, Reeve hopes the Facebook group will promote connections between farmers and buyers, but she’s letting the community steer. “We’ll see where it goes!”

she said.

Reeve recalled that the idea had an unlikely genesis: a conversation at a CrossFit Gym.

“It took months before I realized that a member of the gym’s wife owned Beaver-tides Farm in Falls Village, and they did beef and lamb and beeswax,” she said. “It just spurred some curiosity.”

After learning another acquaintance happened to own Howling Flats Farm in North Canaan, Reeve said she realized that there was a gap between the wealth of farm-produced foods and buyers in the region.

“Maybe some people know,” she said, “but I think

a lot of other people don’t, so this is just bringing awareness to that.”

Reeve said the core of her interest comes down to her own family’s values of “making smarter choices, trying to support the community, and prioritizing grassroots movements wherever we can,” and that she believes others in the region feel the same.

Part of the appeal of buying local is seeing where your food comes from, an increasing rarity in a world dominated by global food markets.

“I can go to the stand and largely see the field where the item was grown,” she said, “and there’s just something kind of magical about that.”



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Alexandra Lally Peters displays a humorous version of the John Trumbull painting in which women replace men signing the Declaration of Independence.

Women were sewn into the fabric of colonial history

By Ruth Epstein

SHARON – Though history books and official records often focus on stories of Colonial men, historian, speaker and sampler collector Alexandra Lally Peters argued that women played a major role in shaping early America – and while they may not always appear on paper, they show up in needlepoint.

In a lecture sponsored by the Sharon Historical Society Sunday, June 14, Peters proclaimed, “Absence from the records is not an absence from history.” Women’s contributions weren’t always documented or celebrated, she posited, because history tends to exclude home and domestic life.

“The most important structure in colonial life was family and I focus on appreciating the value of what women did,” she said.

Peters was emphatic that she wasn’t disparaging men, but that society doesn’t understand how to publicly value domesticity.

Samplers, or textiles featuring often intricate needlework, provide evidence of competence, vision and pride, she said. Tens of thousands of samplers have survived from that time period.

She provided the audience a glimpse of several of the samplers in her personal collection, which numbers more than 200. They can be large or small, generally designed from linen or silk – occasionally wool – and made to be displayed. They were most often created at school and then brought home.

“Textiles are critical to human life,” Peters said. “And they are almost always made by women.”

The first sampler she ever saw was made by Agnes Brayshaw in 1788. She was so impressed because it showed her identity by describing herself.

Lidy Hanson (1722-1824) lived to 102 and witnessed enormous amounts of change. Miriam Lord (1748-1831) was Nathaniel Hawthorne’s grandmother. He saw her sampler on the wall and wrote about needlework in his classic “The Scarlet Letter.” His aunt Mary Dodge also created

samplers, so he saw needlework all around him.

Clarisa Butler of Wethersfield used a mixture of linen and wool for a sampler. Her biography noted she was excommunicated from the church for having a child out of wedlock.

Family registers that listed relatives were often placed on samplers. One depicting the Comstock family showed they came from Kent and then moved elsewhere. One of Peters’ favorites is a Heuston Genealogy. They were a Black family from Maine and samplers from Blacks were very unusual.

“They had 12 children,” she said. “I’d never seen another sampler showing all 12 children had survived. The children, even the girls, were educated. I’ve become friends with one of the descendants.”

“Samplers are telling you something,” said Peters. One work by Patty Livingston showed the family crest. She came from Red Hook, NY, but is buried in Hillside Cemetery in Sharon.

Samplers also speak of sorrow. The Stetson family register shows they had five living children in December and by February, they had lost four of them. “It was common to lose children,” Peters said. “Kids worried all the time about dying and that was sometimes reflected in their needlework.”

Peters listed the skills needed to create samplers, including literacy, mathematical ability, dexterity, creativity and self-discipline. She said children were not coerced to make them, but did so with pride.

“I live with the creative energy of these girls,” she said.

Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following actions were taken by the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on June 8, 2026:

Approved — Application IWWC-26-25 by owner Raccard Properties LLC for stormwater improvements including replacement of three culverts, construction of a landscaping feature, and electrical utility work. The properties are shown on Salisbury Assessor’s map 23 as lots 52 and 36 and are known as 70 Beaver Dam Road and 47 Ham-

mertown Road, Salisbury, CT 06068. Deemed Exempt — Application IWWC-26-28 by The Lignin Group, LLC (Blake Morrison) to install two Docks, in two pre existing locations - each less than 50’ off the shoreline. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor’s map 66 as lot 40 and is known as 27 West Shore Place, Salisbury, CT 06068. The owner of the property is SKATTUM JULIE G TRUSTEE JULIE G SKATTUM TRUST. Any aggrieved person may appeal this decision to the Connecticut Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes § 22a-43(a) & §8-8.

Town of Salisbury

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission
Sally Spillane,
Secretary
06-18-26

TAX COLLECTOR TOWN OF SALISBURY CT LEGAL NOTICE

The taxpayers of the Town of Salisbury are hereby notified that I have received the Warrant and the Rate Bill to collect taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2025 with a levy of 9.80 Mills. Said taxes become due on July 1, 2026. If said Real Estate and Personal Property tax is over \$100.00, it is payable in four installments due: July 1, 2026, October 1, 2026, January 1, 2027, April 1, 2027.

Motor Vehicle tax shall be paid in one installment due: July 1, 2026. Payments must be received or postmarked by August 3, 2026. If said Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicle taxes are not paid on or before August 3, 2026 interest at the rate of 1.5% (18% annually) will apply. The minimum interest charge is \$2.00. Taxes can be paid by mail addressed to: Tax Collector, PO Box 338, Salisbury CT 06068. WPCA Sewer use fees for the year July 1, 2026 are also due and payable by August 3, 2026. Tax office hours are Monday and Wednesday 9am-4pm and Friday 9am-3pm. There is a drop box in the vestibule of the Town Hall open

9am-4pm, Monday-Friday and a 24 hour drop box on the Factory Street back side of the Town Hall. Please check salisburyct.us for additional credit card payment information. FAILURE TO RECEIVE A BILL DOES NOT INVALIDATE THE TAX OR THE INTEREST. Please contact the Tax Collector’s Office 860 435-5189 or taxcollector@salisburyct.us if you do not receive a bill or have questions. Dated this 3th day of June 2026.

JoAnne D. Dodge, CCMC
Tax Collector
Salisbury, CT 06068
06-18-26
07-02-26
07-23-26

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We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning. Notice of such error must be given to us after the first run of the advertisement.

Our Towns

House of Books Celebrates 50 Years in Kent

By D.H. Callahan

KENT – In 1976, John Miller, a teacher at the Berkshire School, quit his job, moved his family to Kent, Connecticut, and opened up a little book store. Fifty years later, the House of Books is still thriving as a small independent book store, and community hub.

To celebrate the rare feat of small business endurance, the House of Books invited customers, employees, and even a few Appalachian Trail through-hikers to celebrate with gentle jazz guitar, a full spread from beloved local eatery, Swyft, and of course, a whole house of books.

Among the attendees was Cathy Hoffman Miller, daughter of John and Carol Hoffman the original owners. Cathy wasn't even a teen yet when the

family settled down in Kent, after years of bouncing from boarding school to boarding school.

While she was happy to establish roots in the quintessentially quaint New England town, it quickly became apparent that this new business was going to be a family affair. Cathy and her sisters were put to work keeping the wire racks full of noir and wester paperbacks, and the shelves stacked with new releases. The sisters would soon enlist their friends to help out with the annual new year's day inventory counts in exchange for free pizza from the Kent Pizza Garden, one of a handful of businesses still open today.

With a thriving art community in the area, famed mid-century painter, Eric Sloane utilized the store as a base for distributing his art books, often

coming into the store to sign copies which House of Books would ship all over the country. They even converted the back of the store into an art gallery for a time, setting the stage, in a way, for today's Kent Barns galleries.

The House of Books was clearly more than just a store. Kent residents would treat the shop as a place to hang out, taking their time to socialize and fraternize while leafing through pages. Buying something seemed like a secondary priority to gathering together to shoot the breeze. That was just fine with the House of Books.

Of course, this was all long before the fatal one-two blows of Big Box bookstores, and the online onslaught from Amazon. When the House of Books opened 50 years ago, there were an estimated 10,000



PHOTO BY D.H. CALLAHAN
Cathy Hoffman Miller, whose parents opened House of Books 50 years ago, holds pictures of her family.



PHOTO BY D.H. CALLAHAN
The Hoffman Family founded the House of Books.

bookstores operating in the United States. In 2019, there were fewer than 2,000.

But manager Ben Rybeck believes the pendulum is swinging back in favor of the little guy. Rybeck was hired as the manager of the House of Books in April of 2020, a time when the whole world was shut down, and in-person shopping was a thing of the past. He witnessed first hand how the community rallied together to support the store that had been there for them over the decades.

Using online tools made more available to small businesses, customers were able to shop the House of Books inventory, sending their purchases directly to their homes, or picking them up outside the store. It was a great chance for the community to be there for House

of Books, who had been there for the community for 50 years.

The next 50 years may be hard to predict, but Rybeck seems to be right about one thing. The pendulum is indeed

swinging back. Since the pandemic, the number of small, independent bookstores across the country has nearly doubled. That fact, just like 50 years of this beloved store, is truly something to celebrate.



PHOTO BY D.H. CALLAHAN
A packed House of Books in Kent celebrates its 50th anniversary Saturday, June 14, with a birthday bash, refreshments and books.

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