

The Lakeville Journal

lakevillejournal.com

18 PAGES IN 2 SECTIONS VOLUME 129 NUMBER 49

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THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026 \$3.00

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



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

A bird's eye view of an uprooted tree that fell on the Scoville Library lawn in Salisbury Saturday, July 4. Clean-up crews were out on Sunday, July 5 and throughout the week.

Clean-up continues after strongest storm to hit Northwest Corner in years

By Aly Morrissey, Alec Linden and Patrick L. Sullivan

Days after an extreme storm caught the Northwest Corner by surprise after an otherwise sunny Fourth of July, communities are still picking up the pieces as clean-up efforts persist. Blocked roads, downed trees and power lines, and widespread power and water outages continued to affect the region as of Monday, July 6. While more than

1,000 people in Salisbury remained without power Tuesday morning, businesses started to reopen.

Continued rain made clean-up efforts difficult as the week began, and some major roads remained partially blocked.

No tornado, but strongest warning came too late for Northwest Corner

On Saturday evening, the weather took an abrupt turn just after 7 p.m. as hurricane-force winds

whipped through the region, with Salisbury and Falls Village in the direct line of the storm before it moved southeast toward Harwinton and Torrington.

The storms forced last-minute cancellations of fireworks and laser light shows in the area and created hazardous travel conditions with hail, heavy rain and strong winds. Emergency crews responded throughout the evening to blocked roads and downed wires.

Residents referred to the scene as “apocalyptic.”

While many believed a torna-

See STORM, Page A10

North Canaan shop owner and employee charged with selling narcotics

By Alec Linden

NORTH CANAAN – Police arrested the owner and an employee of Smoker's Choice, a smoke shop and convenience store in the East Main Plaza in North Canaan, on June 30 on drug sale charges.

According to police records, officers arrested store owner Mohammad Rahman of Litchfield and cashier Rape Ruhul Amin of Brooklyn, New York, after conducting a compliance check at the business.

A citation had been issued to the business in January for selling illegal cannabis products and included a seizure of several pounds of merchandise. It was the second bust in

two years at the establishment.

Both men were processed for selling narcotic substances, with Rahman additionally charged with operating a drug factory. Rahman and Amin were both released on bonds, which were posted as \$100,000 and \$50,000, respectively. They are scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court on July 14.

North Canaan Resident Trooper Spencer Bronson was the primary investigator on the case, but could not immediately be reached for comment.

A trooper not directly involved with the investigation said that the compliance check on June 30 yield-

See NARCOTICS, Page A12

Designer confections sell like hot cakes in auction to support Sharon Historical Society

By Ruth Epstein

SHARON – Judging from the record crowd at Friday's Let's Eat Cake auction and cocktail party hosted by the Sharon Historical Society, Abbey Nova, its executive director, was right when she said, “Not even heat can keep us from cake.”

More than 15 years after the first auction was held, all proceeds continue to support the Sharon Historical Society and Museum. This year, the event brought in \$27,000.

Despite the sweltering temperature, the tent on the lawn was filled with guests eager to bid on

See LET'S EAT CAKE, Page A12

Calm before the storm

Northwest Corner celebrates America's 250th with parades, music and patriotism



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

From spacious skies to star-spangled decor, communities throughout the region celebrated the Fourth of July with music, parades and cannon fire to honor the nation's 250th anniversary, even as temperatures climbed into the mid-90s. Hours later, the festivities would give way to one of the region's most destructive storms in years. For more photos, see pages A8-9.

E. Jean Carroll backs out of book-signing event at Hotchkiss Library for safety reasons

By Aly Morrissey

SHARON – Facing threats of violence amid a public dispute with President Donald J. Trump, famed author and journalist E. Jean Carroll is no longer expected to attend a highly anticipated book-signing at The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, though library officials said they have not received formal notice that she has canceled.

The meet and greet was originally scheduled for Aug. 1 as part of the library's Sharon Summer Book Signing event – which will take place as planned – but Library Director Gretchen Hachmeister said July 2 that Carroll's attendance is no longer expected. She said the writer is allegedly in an undisclosed location under police protection after receiv-

See E. JEAN CARROLL, Page A12



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

The Mousetrap Cake was entered into the Sharon Historical Society's Let's Eat Cake auction by three Sharon selectmen.



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Online This Week

Continued Storm Coverage

For the most up-to-date news and photos following the July 4 storm, visit lakevillejournal.com.

POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

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

Driver flees rear-end

At approximately 11 a.m. on June 29, Kelley Groover, 48, of Norfolk, was traveling east on Route 112 in Salisbury and came to a stop at a stop sign at the intersection with Route 7. Upon stopping, a Subaru Forester with plate number 5FML28 belonging to Rosaura Mazo Palacin of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, rear-ended the Mazda MX-5 Miata Club that Groover was driving. She reported pain in her neck from the impact, but declined evaluation on-scene. The Forester fled the scene, and the investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information regarding the incident is asked to contact Trooper Kathleen Begley #868 at Kathleen.begley@ct.gov or the Troop B barracks phone line at 860-626-1820.

Driver loses control due to deer, fights to regain road

Near midnight on July 1, Kevin Warren, 45, of Lanesville, New York was driving west on Route 4 in Sharon when a deer jumped into the roadway, causing Warren to swerve left across and off the road from the eastbound lane. Warren traveled for approximately 100 yards in his Ford F350 off the side of the road trying to reenter the roadway. While trying unsuccessfully to navigate an embankment, a tire flew out of the bed of Warren's pickup truck and struck the hood of an unoccupied Subaru Outback parked at a residence. Warren's vehicle was eventually towed from the scene but he was uninjured.

Disturbance call yields warrant arrest

On the morning of July 2, troopers responded to a disturbance at a Church Street address in North

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.

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

Check them out inside.

- Ocean State Job Lot
- Herrington's

Sharon home prices continue to climb as seller's market persists

By Christine Bates

SHARON – The median sale price for single-family homes in Sharon reached its highest level in nearly two years during the 12-month period ending June 30.

The rolling 12-month median sale price rose to \$788,000, the highest since August 2024, when the town's all-time high median of \$880,000 was recorded.

The \$788,000 median price represents a 32% increase from the \$597,500 median recorded for the 12 months ending June 30, 2025, and a 6% increase from \$746,000 for the comparable period ending June 30, 2024.

Sales remained stable on a rolling 12-month basis. A total of 42 single-family homes sold during the 12 months ending June 30, matching the previous year's total. There were 44 sales during the comparable period ending June 30, 2024.

As of July 1, inventory had increased to 19 residential listings — 18 single-family homes and one condominium — three more than a month earlier. Despite the increase, Sharon remains a seller's market, particularly at the lower end. Twelve of the homes on the market were listed for more than \$1 million, while only five were priced below the town's rolling median sale price of \$788,000.

Land inventory also increased, with 13 parcels listed on the multiple listing service as of July 1, ranging in price from \$139,000 to \$2.495 mil-



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Located within the former Buckley Great Elm Estate, 2 Great Elm, sold last month for \$2.95 million. The 4,449-square-foot home on 3.74 acres features four bedrooms, four-and-a-half bathrooms and a sweeping front lawn.

lion. Four of the parcels were smaller than 10 acres.

The rental market remained active despite the start of summer. Six furnished homes were available for summer rentals, with asking prices ranging from \$6,000 per month to \$20,000 for the season, while seven furnished homes were listed for the academic year.

Sharon June Transfers

19 South Ellsworth Road – 3 bedroom/3.5 bath home on .6 acres transferred by Jennifer Naylor and Kathryn Frucher on June 1, 2026, to John and Alexandra Belle for \$1,694,600

76 Fairchild Road – 3 bedroom/3 bath home built in 1973 on four acres transferred by Estate of Ruby Peterson on June 2, 2026,

to Keith Parent and Eric Ketchum for \$775,000

86 Upper Main Street – Property transferred by Estate of Philip Larkin on June 15, 2026, to Roxanne and Brenden Lee for \$64,285

5 Great Elm Drive, Unit #3 – 3 bedroom/3.5 bath condo transferred by Cozy Abode LLC on June 16, 2026, to 5 Great Elm LLC for \$750,000

30 Knibloe Hill Road – 3 bedroom/2.5 bath antique house transferred by Michael Taylor and Tara Stiles on June 17 to Christopher Mayotte and Brian Alba for \$1,850,000

2 Great Elm Drive – 4 bedroom/4.5 bath home on 3.74 acres transferred by Carole Bailey to William and Cherie Gillette Sigward for \$2,925,000

21 South Ellsworth Road – 3 bedroom/2 bath antique home built in 1784 on 1.48 acres transferred by John and Alexandra Bell and Alexandra Nishon on June 29, 2026 to Michael Maloney and Kathryn Cosgrove for \$1,050,000

Town of Sharon real estate transfers recorded between June 1, 2026, and June 30, 2026, provided by Sharon Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market listings from Smart MLS and market statistics from InfoSparks. Note that recorded transfers may lag sales by a number of days. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.

Ridgway chosen to lead regional council, strives for partnership, not division

By Alec Linden

LITCHFIELD – Cornwall First Selectman Gordon Ridgway was elected last month as chair of the Northwest Hills Council of Governments, the regional organization that coordinates planning, secures grants and fosters collaboration among 21 northwest Connecticut municipalities.

Ridgway said one of his first priorities will be bringing the region's leaders closer together after months of internal division over the organization's budget process.

The COG's Executive Committee, which helps guide the organization's work, met July 2 for the first time since members were elected. The committee now includes Sharon First Selectman Casey Flanagan alongside Ridgway, giving Region One greater representation in the organization's leadership.

The state is split into nine different COGs, which function as regional planning agencies. The Northwest Hills branch covers Northwest Connecticut, and brings together local officials and municipal leaders to "discuss issues of inter-municipal concern, promote regional cooperation, and direct various regional initiatives to enhance government planning, efficiency, and service delivery."

During the meeting, Ridgway, who has been first

selectman in Cornwall for 35 years, proposed reviving a roundtable discussion every meeting to "knit the organization together a little bit." He said the move could improve the group's discord in recent months, which has mostly revolved around the organization's budget process. The roundtable used to be a feature of the monthly meetings but "it was phased out because people kept talking too much," Ridgway said.

The new iteration will cap each official at one minute, just enough to relay a story or report that may help another town with a similar situation or establish a dialogue about an important issue in the region.

During Thursday's meeting, Flanagan was enthusiastic that the roundtable could address the recent conten-

tion. "I'm seeing some division within our group that I don't really care for," he said, adding, "We're all in the CEO seat... if we can't support each other, that's a problem."

Roxbury's First Selectman Patrick Roy, the Executive Committee's treasurer, said that even after five years in the role, "there are days I'm drinking through a firehose." He said he sees value in establishing connections between town leaders to deal with difficult issues.

"This is about doing the best thing for our people," he said, "and not having to reinvent the wheel."

Ridgway said the bottom line to his approach in leading the monthly meetings will be simple: "I'll be making sure that people's voices are heard without wasting people's time. It's not a place to grandstand."

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Our Towns

Sharon Audubon Center Director retires

By Alec Linden

SHARON – After eight years at the helm of the Sharon Audubon Center, Eileen Fielding retired from her role as Executive Director on Thursday, July 2.

“It was time,” she said from behind her desk in the 1925 converted residence on a rainy day in late June, but she said that the role has been the perfect culmination of a long career in conservation.

“I mean, how many people get the opportunity to run something that was their happy place when they were 20 years old?”

Fielding took the position in 2018. For many years before that, since 2009, she had volunteered as a wildlife rehabilitator and caregiver for the resident raptors at the Sharon Center while she maintained a role as director of the Farmington River Watershed Association. Eventually, she was invited to join the Board of Directors, from where she eventually was tapped for the director’s role.

Fielding’s exposure to the Sharon Audubon Center began much earlier, though, when she visited the facility for its festivals as a student and early career naturalist. Even before that, she was volunteering at an Audubon Center in Massachusetts at 13-years-old.

“That was the transformative experience,” she said, in directing her career goals as a young person. “There were mentors there that were happy to give me a good grounding in natu-



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Eileen Fielding, who retired from the Sharon Audubon Center after eight years as director, poses with Paloma the white dove. Boomer, the mourning dove in the enclosure behind, looks on.

ral history,” she said, “and it put me in touch with other young people that had similar interests to mine and really set the course for what I chose to study in college.”

She went on to have a long and varied career in the conservation and environmental science sphere, directing a wildlife sanctuary in Indiana and multiple watershed protection organizations in upstate New York and Connecticut among other roles. She also gained a doctorate degree in ecology and served as an adjunct professor at several higher education institutions.

Closing out her career at

Audubon made sense, Fielding said. “As much as it was meaningful to look after rivers and watersheds, my first love was always birds and mammals.”

Fielding said her time with Audubon was especially rewarding as it’s the only major conservation organization in the U.S. with local chapters that provide community-focused conservation resources and programming. “And it wants to make the most of that asset,” she said.

“As a center director,” she said, “I have tried to make that work for the benefit of the community, as in bring-

ing the resources of National Audubon to the community level.”

One of the highlights of her career at the Center was the installation of a Motus Tower several years ago, which is a research tool that tracks tagged birds as they migrate seasonally. She especially loved that the tower provides an interactive tool, free and open to the public, for both laypeople and experts to track bird movements. It also links the Center to other Motus Towers across the world where similar conservation is being conducted.

She pointed to a recent

Sharon Audubon Center-supported project where students at North Canaan Elementary School and a school in Colombia connected over Motus Towers in each location pinging the same bird species.

“That’s broadening the horizons of the kids,” she said, “as well as getting the conservation message out. So that’s what I mean by taking bird conservation as practiced by Audubon and turning it into a benefit for the community.”

Fielding said the Center’s rehabilitation programs also forge a vital community connection. “People will

bring us birds in distress,” she said, “and it becomes a wonderful opportunity to build a connection with that person about how to make the world a better place for birds, starting with your own front yard – or chimney,” she said, referring to the Center’s highly successful chimney swift rehabilitation program, which has become the “clearing house” for the acrobatic species.

Reflecting on why she devoted eight years, day and night, to bird conservation, Fielding offered a quote from famed ecologist Tom Lovejoy: “If you take care of birds, you take care of most of the big problems of the world.”

Fielding said she’ll miss working with her team at the Center, but that it remains in good hands with her departure, where she intends to stay involved with the Northwest Corner conservation sphere. “One of the hardest things to walk away from is the people you get to work with,” she said.

As the center searches for a replacement, Fielding said her role will be filled in by other directors and operations officers from Audubon’s Connecticut and New York district. She assured the team is well poised to succeed as the Center expands and faces many exciting projects, including a major renovation of the campus on Cornwall Bridge Road.

“The folks here are all veterans,” she said with a smile. “There will be days that people haven’t even noticed I’m gone.”

Sharon Audubon Center eyes major redesign

By Alec Linden

SHARON – After operating for 65 years from a converted 1920s home, the Sharon Audubon Center is closer than ever to a long-planned major renovation of its facilities on Cornwall Bridge Road.

The project, which has been in the works for well over a decade, will completely replace the 80 year old residence that has housed Northwest Connecticut’s chapter of the national bird conservation organization since 1961 with a modern, energy-efficient design that features a designated exhibit hall, classrooms for school programs and flexible meeting spaces.

The redesign will also move around some key facilities such as the wildlife rehabilitation clinic, which provides critical care for injured, sick and orphaned birds as well as its own resident birds.

A statement from the Audubon communications team said the project represents a necessary update: “Our aging, century-old buildings can no longer meet the needs of our growing programs or the birds we are called to protect.”

The revitalization effort, as the organization is referring to the project, was a key feature of Eileen Fielding’s eight-year tenure as executive director of the Center before she retired last Thursday, July 2.

“I’ve known this building for decades,” Fielding said a few days before she left the Center, “and it’s hard to think of it going away, but it’s time. It is really time.”

The idea began percolating in 2011 under the leadership of former director Scott Heth, to whom Field-

ing credits essential early momentum for the project. Now, with new renderings from Wisconsin-based firm The Kubala Washatko Architects and a healthy amount of the planning phase out of the way, Fielding said she is confidently passing the reins of the project to her team at Sharon Audubon Center to finish what she spent nearly a decade preparing for.

“If I’m not going to stay all the way to ribbon cutting,” Fielding said, “this would be a good time to go.”

Fielding said the motivation behind the rebuild was to prioritize environmentally sound design and a collaborative work environment in parallel with both Audubon’s central mission and the Center’s expanding programming and activities.

“It’ll certainly be a better space for the staff to work with young people,” Fielding said, explaining that the new Center will be able to host educational programs while keeping the exhibits open to the public, which the current space doesn’t allow for.

“It will also enable the volunteers to work in closer proximity to the staff,” she said. Workplace connectivity will be key to the open floorplan, which is intended to be easy to navigate for both staff and visitors alike.

“The building is so big and rambling,” she said of the current early 20th century design, “and our offices are at literally opposite ends of the building... it makes interaction and collaboration just a little more cumbersome.”

Plus, “it’s rather porous,” she said. Leaks are common, and the structure is far from energy efficient. The new building will follow green construction practices, Field-

ing said, with bird-safe glass, rain gardens and natural filtration systems for storm water runoff and native plants to support native insect populations.

Overall, Fielding said the redesign is meant to make the space more welcoming, functional and environmentally sound with more “visibility” within the community.

“And I do mean visibility literally,” she said. “We want people to see more of it from the road,” she said, “and to not feel so much like they’re invading someone’s house.”

An old residence on the property will also be converted to a raptor care center for the Center’s resident birds of prey and a rehabilitation clinic. The new location is much closer to the raptors’ home in the aviaries, Fielding said, and keeps the clinic, which will specialize in songbirds, separate from the main building where it is currently housed.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Renderings from Wisconsin-based firm The Kubala Washatko Architects show an entirely redesigned Sharon Audubon Center, built with environmental consciousness and community engagement in mind.

“It’s a very specialized activity,” she said, “and it really needs to be in a separate space.”

Fielding said the next steps are submitting applications to the town’s Inland

Wetlands Commission and Planning and Zoning Commission, but she won’t be in charge when those hearings are held.

While she said it’s hard to walk away, she’s eager to

see the staff carry the project through to its long-awaited fruition.

“I really look forward to coming back when it’s done,” she said, “and knowing I laid the groundwork for it.”



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Former private school employee avoids prison for computer crimes

By Alec Linden

WATERBURY – A former Kent School employee convicted of accessing the private photos of 81 students and staff while working as an IT technician will avoid jail time after being sentenced on June 29.

The outcome was already determined in March when Daniel Clery, 49, of Brookfield, Connecticut entered into a plea deal when he pleaded no contest to two counts of first degree computer crimes, for which he was found guilty. While the deal was already established, Clery was formally sentenced at state Superior Court on June 29.

Under the terms of the agreement, Clery will face a 10-year suspended prison sentence that places him on probation for five years and requires him to register as a sex offender for 10 years.

Clery worked for the private school from 2000 to 2023, when he was fired after a staff member reported twice that he had accessed her personal information. A forensic report commissioned by the school and a police investigation yielded thousands of images taken from students’ and staff’s devices, and he was subsequently arrested in 2024.

A separate class-action lawsuit was allowed to partially proceed in March after a judge found the Kent School may be held liable for negligence in allowing for the data breach to occur. The court denied other aspects of the suit that claimed invasion of

privacy, computer crimes and negligent infliction of emotional distress against the school.

The plaintiffs, represented by 17 female students who were minors during Clery’s employment at the school, filed an amended suit in April alleging the school should be held accountable for negligence, invasion of privacy, computer privacy violations, statutory computer privacy violations, recklessness and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

The School responded in May with a motion to strike all but the claims of negligence and negligent infliction of emotional distress. The dispute is currently under legal review. The next deadline is July 15, when the plaintiffs are due to respond to the school’s motion.

At the same time, the two sides dispute whether the class named in the suit should be all Kent School students enrolled between 2017 and Clery’s termination in 2023 or the 70 students identified as victims of the Kent School’s commissioned investigation.

Jennifer Sclar of Silver, Golub & Teitell LLP, an attorney representing the plaintiffs, said that the school’s investigation likely does not represent the full scope of those affected by Clery’s crimes. “There is no reason to believe that the universe of victims is limited to the 70 [students] plus 11 [staff],” she said.

“We believe that the notice should go to all students because all students could be victims.”

Retired lawyer discusses satirical legal novel at Scoville Library

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY – Retired lawyer and fiction writer Tom Morrison said he spent decades watching fellow attorneys take themselves too seriously. In retirement, he turned that observation into a series of comic legal novels and discussed the latest with former Lakeville Journal Executive Editor Cynthia Hochswender at the Scoville Memorial Library on Tuesday, June 30.

Morrison told the audience he has often thought that his colleagues take themselves too seriously, a sentiment that has been the basis of his series of comic novels, including the new “Close Encounters with Tort\$.”

Hochswender asked Morrison how he got started writing fiction.

Although Morrison only started the “Tort\$” series at age 74, he said he attempted to write a spy thriller when he was in the Air Force as a young man.

“I knew nothing about spies or writing a novel,” Morrison said. “Luckily, it was never published.”

But in retirement, he revisited the idea.

“This time I’d write about something I do know,” Morrison said.

His series chronicles the legal adventures of twin brothers and tort lawyers Patrick A. “Pap” Peters and Prescott U. “Pup” Peters.

The first novel, “Torts ‘R’ Us,” was published in 2020.

This time around, the story involves UFOs, the Espionage Act, the Disney song “Some Day My Prince Will Come,” featured in Snow



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Former Lakeville Journal Executive Editor Cynthia Hochswender moderates a conversation with lawyer-turned-novelist Tom Morrison in Salisbury June 30.

White, and the legal question: “Can anybody just sue Russia?”

Morrison said the first three novels focused on “the abuse of the class action lawsuit, to the extent there was a serious message.”

The fourth installment, about artificial intelligence, and the new one “are much more current.”

Asked about his writing regimen, Morrison said he still drafts everything by hand.

“I have a huge supply of No. 2 pencils and white legal pads,” Morrison said. “The first draft might take 35 pads. Then I go to the computer.”

Morrison said he relies on newspapers for raw material, including the Wall Street Journal and, particularly, the New York Post.

“The Post has a knack for covering crazy things that happen around the country,” he said. “I’d be lost without it.”

As a litigator, Morrison said he enjoyed writing briefs, and he took the word “brief” seriously, focusing on concise writing.

His colleagues wrote “as if they were still in law school,”

he said. Morrison said he’d make his briefs shorter. “Tell the story I wanted to tell and stop,” he said.

One of his bosses didn’t think much of his style.

“He called it ‘Newsweek style.’ I took that as a compliment.”

Hochswender closed by asking if “Close Encounters with Tort\$” would be the final book in the series.

“I think five books about wacky class action lawsuits is enough,” Morrison replied.

Send news tips to editor@lakevillejournal.com

Filmmaker screens film, leads ‘mail art’ workshop at Center on Main

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE – Filmmaker Imogen Pranger introduced Falls Village residents to the world of mail art during a presentation and hands-on workshop at the Center on Main Thursday, July 2. She screened her 16-minute film, “Mail Myself to You,” before leading the workshop, which was attended by about a dozen adults and children.

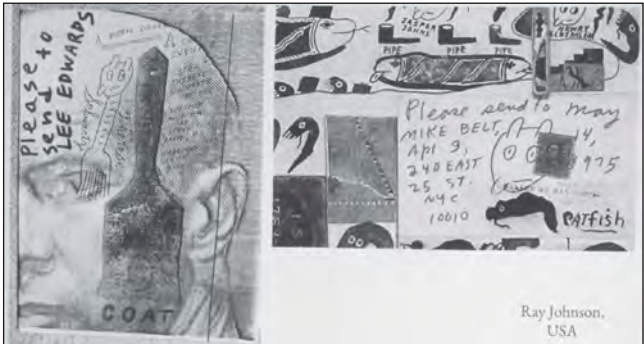
“Mail art” has been around for decades, but defining it is a little tricky, Pranger said before doing her best to describe the medium.

“It’s a system of shared art works using the postal system,” she explained. No two pieces of mail art look the same, which makes defining it difficult. It can appear as decorated postcards, envelopes and small pieces of cardstock. The postal markings and stamps are considered part of the art.

Pranger, who graduated with a film degree from Oberlin College in 2024, said she was introduced to mail art as a freshman while working at the Clarence Ward Art Library at the college.

As a student employee, Pranger said then-librarian Barbara Prior asked her to create an organizational system for the library’s donated mail art collection, primarily works by artists Reid Wood and Harley Francis.

Both artists had donated or sold their collections to the library, which included thousands of individual pieces, each small enough to be



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Filmmaker Imogen Pranger screens her documentary and leads a ‘mail art’ workshop at the Hunt Library July 2.

sent through the mail.

There is no typical piece of mail art. The pieces must be small and flat enough to go through the postal system, and there must be room for stamps. The only real commonality is the highly idiosyncratic and individualized nature of the pieces.

Pranger said mail art emerged in the 1960s and had its heyday in the 1980s. The rise of the internet in the 1990s saw a decrease as artists shifted to digital formats that could be shared with a single mouse click.

But mail art has rebounded in recent years. Pranger said it’s part of a more general interest among visual artists in using older technology,

such as film cameras, typewriters and mimeograph machines.

The fun of mail art, she said, is joining “an international network of mail art. If you send stuff out, you’ll get stuff back.”

Pranger said she developed a friendship with the mail carrier whose route covered her home in Oberlin.

“He’d say ‘What is this crazy stuff you keep getting?’ and I explained it.”

“Mail Myself to You” is available for viewing at the David M. Hunt Library as part of the video collection overseen by Falls Village filmmaker Yonah Sadeh, who met Pranger in film school in Prague.

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Our Towns

At ‘The Falls,’ accessibility meets architecture in a landmark Kent home

By Debra A. Aleksinas

KENT — More than two decades ago, Benjamin and Donna Rosen had not even stepped inside the house when they knew they had found their future home.

Driving up to a striking modernist home tucked deep within the woods of Kent, the couple took one look at the dramatic setting and made their decision.

“As soon as we saw it, we said, ‘This is it,’” Donna Rosen recalled. “We hadn’t even gone inside.”

Today, after more than two decades as caretakers of one of Connecticut’s most architecturally significant modernist homes, the Rosens have listed the property for sale and are preparing to pass that stewardship to a new owner.

Known as “The Falls,” the 40-plus-acre estate at 23 Mauwee Brook Road has been on the market for about a year and is currently listed for \$6.5 million through William Pitt Sotheby’s International Realty. But the story behind the planned sale extends far beyond a real estate transaction.

Designed in 1981 by acclaimed modernist architect Charles Gwathmey, the residence is considered an important example of the architect’s sculptural approach to design, integrating dramatic geometric forms with the surrounding landscape.

Gwathmey, whose notable projects included the renovation and expansion of New York City’s Guggenheim Museum, also designed homes for prominent clients including filmmaker Steven Spielberg and comedian Jerry Seinfeld.

For the Rosens, however, the property was never simply a house.

“We always felt like we were stewards of the home,” Donna Rosen said.

That philosophy shaped everything they did during their ownership, from preserving Gwathmey’s architectural vision while improving accessibility to allow for aging in place, creating expansive gardens, trails and outdoor gathering spaces that transformed the property into what family and friends affectionately came to call “Camp Rosen.”

The estate sits amid protected Litchfield Hills views and includes a natural waterfall, stream, walking trails, tennis court, pool, spa and an eight-acre landscape designed by noted landscape architect Deborah Nevins. A sculpture by acclaimed artist Elyn Zimmerman overlooks the falls and will remain with the property.

A house unlike any other

When the Rosens pur-



PHOTO BY MICHAEL BOWMAN

Donna and Ben Rosen spent more than two decades as stewards of The Falls, a nationally significant modernist residence in Kent designed by architect Charles Gwathmey. The 40-acre estate, now listed for sale for \$6.5 million, was adapted for aging in place while preserving its architectural integrity.

chased the home from its original owners in 2002, modernist architecture was not widely sought after in Litchfield County.

“People were more interested in Colonial-style houses than a modernist house,” Rosen recalled.

Over time, their appreciation for the design only deepened.

“The more we lived there, the more we got to appreciate the brilliance of the architecture,” said Rosen, a former art gallery owner and trustee for the New Orleans Museum of Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art. “It was sharp. It was tight. It was crisp.”

She described the experience of living in the house as being “like we lived in a birdcage,” surrounded by views of the landscape through expansive walls of glass.

Designing for the future

As the couple grew older and faced their own health challenges, they also began thinking about how the house might evolve to meet future needs.

They turned to architect Michael Arad, internationally known for designing the National September 11 Memorial at the World Trade Center site in New York City.

According to Donna Rosen, Arad quickly recognized that inserting an elevator would compromise the original design.

“You can’t without destroying this atrium,” she recalled him saying.

Instead, Arad designed an accessible first-floor ad-

dition and circulation plan that allowed the couple to remain in the home without sacrificing the essence of Gwathmey’s vision.

Kathryn Clair, senior global real estate advisor with William Pitt Sotheby’s International Realty in Washington, Connecticut, described the result as exceptionally successful.

She called the property “a rare example” of how a significant architectural work can be adapted for aging in place without compromising its character.

“It really is a one-off,” Clair said. “You don’t find houses like this one very often.”

“We always felt that we were stewards of the home.”

—Donna Rosen
Co-owner of The Falls since 2002

The same care that guided the architectural additions also shaped the grounds.

When working with landscape architect Deborah Nevins, Rosen said she rejected the idea of formal European gardens.

“I wanted Connecticut gardens,” said Rosen.

The couple transformed former pastureland and overgrown areas into sweeping wildflower meadows, walking trails and outdoor gathering spaces.

“What came up was one of the most magnificent wildflower meadows,” Rosen said.

From Camp Rosen to KentPresents

The extensive estate eventually became a gathering place for family, friends and community members, earning the nickname “Camp Rosen.”

At the same time, the Rosens became deeply involved in Kent civic life and philan-

thropic endeavors. Among their most visible contributions was KentPresents, a four-year ideas festival that brought nationally recognized figures in diplomacy, science, journalism, politics and the arts to the Northwest Corner while raising money for local nonprofits.

“It was an incredible experience,” Rosen recalled of the weekend-long presentations that drew renowned guest speakers.

Unlike many conferences, KentPresents encouraged speakers to mingle with attendees throughout the event.

“People would come up to me and say, ‘I sat with Henry Kissinger,’ or ‘I sat with Bill Burns,’” Rosen recalled.

The interactions transformed what might have been a traditional speaker series into something far more personal.

“It was one of the most memorable experiences,” Rosen said. “It was a wonderful swath of talented, wonderful people, and I loved being a part of it.”

Although the festival continued to gain momentum, the demands of organizing it became increasingly difficult for the Rosens.

“Even though we were gaining momentum, it just became too much for Ben and me due to health issues,” Rosen said. “Then COVID hit, and we knew we had made the right decisions about how we wanted to live.”

Ben Rosen, who is Chair Emeritus of the board of Trustees at the California Institute of Technology, later suffered a major stroke, reinforcing the value of the accessibility improvements the couple had thoughtfully

planned years earlier.

Passing the torch

The Rosens’ affection for Kent remains undiminished. “We love that village,” Rosen

said, noting that it will be missed.

Rosen recalled that the move north from New York actually came at the suggestion of a friend, the late composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim.

“It was a miserable experience in the Hamptons,” she said with a laugh. “Stephen said, ‘Come to Connecticut. You don’t need to be in the Hamptons.’”

Rosen reflected on the many people over the decades who helped preserve and care for The Falls. Some are descendants of craftspeople who worked on the original construction and who remained connected to the property across generations.

“The pride they have is so great,” she said. “They became our friends.”

Her hope for the future is simple.

“My hope is that whoever buys The Falls will treasure it and become the new stewards of the property,” Rosen said.

“It’s a totally magical place,” Rosen said.



Worship Services

Week of July 12, 2026

Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon
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trinity@trinitylimerock.org
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Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg
(Calendar at congbethdavid.org)
ALL ARE WELCOME
Rabbi Jon Haddon
845-373-8264
info@congbethdavid.org

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

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

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

The Smithfield Presbyterian Church
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for Sunday services
Contact us at 860-364-5002 or
info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org

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In-Person and on You-Tube
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The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-824-5534
canaanct-umc.com
canaanctumc@gmail.com
We hope you will join us!

PHOTO BY MICHAEL BOWMAN

Inside the home, the architecture allows for a 180-degree view of the property.

LET'S HEAR IT...

THIS WEEK

Powerful storms swept through the Northwest Corner on Independence Day, bringing down trees and power lines, closing roads, and leaving many without power or water. In the aftermath, our communities came together to help one another.

Who are the unsung heroes helping our community recover? Whether it's a neighbor, utility worker, volunteer, first responder, road crew, or local business, give them a shoutout and tell us why they deserve the recognition.

Send your responses to social@lakevillejournal.com by Monday, July 6 at 10 a.m. or comment on Facebook or Instagram. We'll publish a selection in next week's paper.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Are you feeling patriotic for this year's 250th Fourth of July? How do you plan to celebrate or observe the holiday?

"Mark Twain said "Patriotism is supporting your country all the time and your government when it deserves it" and that resounds with me very strongly this year. I am proud of the way our communities support each other and deeply ashamed of the way our government treats its people."

— Ashlee Hope Baldwin, North Canaan

"Let's put it this way- I'm definitely happy we're not a part of the UK. Aside from that- not much positive to say."

— Garrett Rogers, East Canaan



PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

After the storm ...

A sovereign wealth fund could help solve America's financial issues

Critics dismiss a federal sovereign wealth fund as a 'solution looking for a problem'. We can't afford one, they say, we are already in too much debt. The real solution is to cut spending and raise taxes.

How has that solution been working for you? My argument is that buying stakes in our companies, especially in strategic areas, by a U.S. government fund will only improve our financial position. Not only within our own country, but also in our ability to compete globally.

Investments in areas like artificial intelligence could generate far more cash and profits in the future than we could imagine. Those profits could be used to pay down our debt, reduce deficits, and fund the country's needs in areas like healthcare, alternative energy, clean energy initiatives, and social programs.

Unlike some advocates who argue that the government should hold a large stake (20% or more) in companies, I believe this would be excessive and would impede companies' ability to operate efficiently in competitive markets. Japan, for example, limits its holdings in that country's equity markets to no more than 7-8%.

What will it take to convince Congress and the public to establish such a

THE RETIRED INVESTOR BILL SCHMICK

fund? Unfortunately, I suspect it will most likely occur during a financial crisis. Crisis, what crisis, you are probably thinking. The markets have shown they are just too resilient for that to occur. That was my attitude until last month.

That is when I heard Former Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, who navigated us through the Great Financial Crisis of 2008, warn of a potential "doom loop" in the bond market. He worries that demand for U.S. government debt could collapse soon.

This, he said, could trigger a cycle of lower bond prices, higher yields, and rising inflation. There is more than an element of truth to that since our government's Treasury market underpins everything from mortgage rates to corporate borrowing to equity prices. He urged policymakers to prepare an emergency plan and have it ready when demand for U.S. government debt falters.

While his comments did not elicit much comment from the media, his warning, by no means, should be taken as just 'off the cuff' remarks.

In my experience, Paulson, like any ex-Treasury chief, doesn't just start spouting off about a debt crisis unless it's vetted. To me, it was a clear trial balloon well-crafted by the Fed and the U.S. Treasury. The 'when' of such an event is difficult. If his doom loop is correct, sometime next year might be a good guess.

In the meantime, I believe legislation to establish a federal sovereign wealth fund will be passed with bipartisan support. It will be part of this "on the shelf" emergency response plan that Paulson urged the administration to work out now.

A crisis, as he suggested, would leave the Federal Reserve as the lone buyer of our treasuries. Realistically, that would mean the government could be forced to "print" money in one form or another. That would trigger a fresh round of inflation, eroding valuations across most asset classes, including equity.

This could cause a large (30%+) decline in the stock market. That most certainly creates a crisis. If so, it would be an ideal time for a newly established federal U.S. sovereign wealth fund to enter the market. The fund could establish substantial positions in a wide range of companies at bargain-basement prices. Not only would that be ideal from a price perspec-

proaching, when we came to an abrupt halt. A sign in the middle of the road surrounded by barricades read "something, something DANGER." I never remember the word DANGER being used in a traffic sign, but this began a night of much danger and blocked roads and downed trees and swinging power lines.

With no cell service, so no GPS, we were driving around in circles in the dark, when we eventually saw a sign for Lakeville. We turned that

way, only to be deterred by another "road closed" sign and a crew working on downed power lines. I couldn't tell which direction I was going in and was considering just pulling over and spending the night in the car when the white truck pulled up beside us. It looked official, so I jumped out to ask for directions or help. Turns out it was a young man who said he was also trying to get to Sharon. He knew where he was and he knew the roads. He waved me back to my car and said, "Follow me!"

Which we did, eventually on to Housatonic River Road where he'd been earlier. However, this time a downed tree had blocked the road after we'd driven about four miles. We had to turn around -- there is a ravine on one side so not so easy! When we reached the end of the road he jumped out of his truck,

walked to our car and said he thought our best bet was to go back to where they were working on the power lines because eventually, they'd fix them and we'd be on our way.

Turns out the lines had been fixed while we were driving around. So, all clear - he led us to the four corners at Hotchkiss School. We said our goodbyes there, since he was going one way and we were going the other. We didn't know what we'd encounter next on our way home, but at least we knew where we were going.

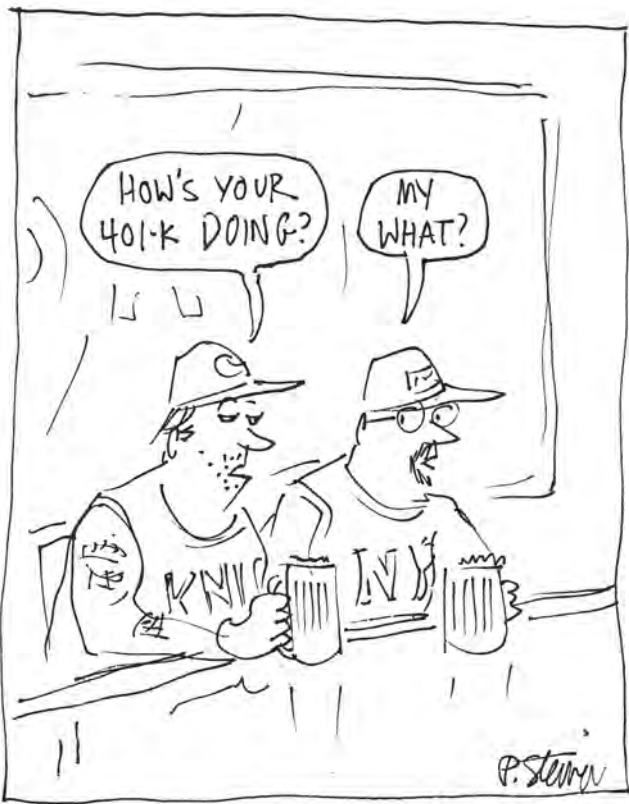
Most importantly, we were reminded in the current climate where so much seems to be about money and self-aggrandizement, there are people like Ashton Cooper.

Thank you Ashton.

Chris and Geraldine Rubin

Sharon

Opinion



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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trees: We have ideas, we need implementation

Several weeks ago, Lizbeth Piel wrote to the Editor about saving our forests. She is right. Whether you are a fly fisher, a hunter, bird watcher, canoeist or follow another sport, the forest is important for you. If you are builder or woodworker trees are essential. If you are looking for exercise or peace of mind, then the forest is a good bet.

Trees are subject to pandemics, usually caused

by filamentous fungi but sometimes by insects (ash) or nematodes (beech). We have lost three and a half billion immense and valuable chestnut trees. Also, elms, and ash. Beech trees are not far behind. Trees cannot run away and they do not have an immune system that remembers what attacked them before. The administration meanwhile Is closing labs that study tree infections.

The Forest Service has taken deeper budget cuts than any other federal agency. There are fewer sources of funds than before and a scientist with a good idea about how to control infectious fungi faces a mountain of funding difficulties.

We in Connecticut are not helpless. We should do our best to fund good ideas and struggle along until Mr. Trump and his destructive

acolytes are gone. We have a superb Connecticut Agricultural Research Station and Universities. We have experimental forests. We have labs from high school to Universities that could pitch in. We have ideas about how to battle fungi and insects that infect our forests. We should find a way to implement them.

Richard Kessin Formerly of Norfolk

Thank you to the good samaritan who led us home

I think we should have a monthly Good Samaritan Award given to one of our neighbors in the Northwest Corner who goes out of their way to lend a helping hand because that's just who they are.

I have a nominee for the first award. My husband and I were driving back to Sharon Saturday night after our annual July 4th trip to see James Taylor at Tanglewood. His songs were still playing in our heads as we made our way along in the dark on Rte. 7, midnight ap-

proaching, when we came to an abrupt halt.

A sign in the middle of the road surrounded by barricades read "something, something DANGER." I never remember the word DANGER being used in a traffic sign, but this began a night of much danger and blocked roads and downed trees and swinging power lines.

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Most importantly, we were reminded in the current climate where so much seems to be about money and self-aggrandizement, there are people like Ashton Cooper.

Thank you Ashton.

Chris and Geraldine Rubin

Sharon

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(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 49

Thursday, July 9, 2026

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LJMN Media, Inc. Publishers of

The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News

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LJMN Media, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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.

Viewpoint

TURNING BACK THE PAGES
NORMA BOSWORTH

125 years ago — July 1901

During the heavy storm of Tuesday afternoon the houses of the late Tryphene Wentworth and Harrison Suydam on Mt. Riga were struck by lightning and the doors and several boards were torn off. Several trees in Salisbury were blown down and telephone wires suffered more or less.

Why do a dozen different thermometers all in the shade give a dozen different records?

A very careless habit is that of throwing paper on the streets. Many a serious runaway has been caused by a paper blowing suddenly around a horse's feet and at this season of the year horses are more nervous than usual and a little more caution should be used. It is only a small matter, but anybody can see the reasonableness of the precaution. Save your paper till you get where there is a proper place for waste paper.

The patent medicine company who have been holding forth on A. Martin's lot the past two weeks on Tuesday pulled up stakes and departed for Sheffield. The winner in the watch contest was Miss Jennie Martin.

100 years ago — July 1926

SALISBURY — Mr. and Mrs. Stalker enjoyed a motor trip to the shore.

The luscious strawberries

we are eating were presented to us by John Lowe of Lime Rock. There was about 30 of them to a quart, and they were about the finest berries the editorial eyes have yet seen. Incidentally it might be stated that Mr. Lowe has a large crop of them for sale, to anyone desiring the finest quality berries for the table or canning.

50 years ago — July 1976

The birthdays of a centennial maple in Lakeville and a one-year-old girl, Chaffee Loper of Sharon, coincided with the national Bicentennial. A sugar maple growing by the Farnam Road home of Lucille Murray was planted July 4, 1876 by Mrs. Murray's aunts, Mary and Elizabeth Cleaveland. Chaffee, who celebrated her first birthday July 2, is a distant relative of two other Cleaveland sisters, Ida and Ada, through her grandfather, William Barnett of Lakeville. They were cousins 100 years ago of the two Cleaveland sisters who planted the maple.

David N. Parker, executive editor and vice president of The Lakeville Journal, will leave his assignment at the end of this week to become assistant state news editor of The Waterbury Republican. He will continue to live in Lakeville and will retain an association with the Journal and with The News in Millerton, of which he has been manager.

Kent selectmen will meet

next Monday night with a representative of the Department of Environmental Protection to discuss the operation of the Kent landfill. The meeting has been arranged because the DEP is concerned that the landfill may be polluting a major aquifer located below and to the south of the landfill.

If you go to Sharon Hospital after Oct. 1 this year, chances are it will cost you some \$8.50 more per day than it did last year. This will still be one of the smallest increases in the state.

FALLS VILLAGE — Funeral services were held Friday July 2 for John Willard Carrigan, 67, of Beebe Hill Road. Carrigan, a retired Foreign Service Officer who served in the South Central America and the Middle East before retiring, died Tuesday at Sharon Hospital shortly after he was taken there for treatment. Medical examiner Dr. G.S. Gudernatch said death was from natural causes.

Our town seemed to receive some kind of special blessing from Nature for the thoroughly enjoyable conclusion to its Bicentennial celebration Sunday evening. Visitors to the Grove kept bringing reports of downpours all around us — in Sheffield and Cornwall and elsewhere — but all we got was a few menacing rumbles of thunder and a glorious rainbow stretching away on the oth-

er side of Lake Wononscopomuc. What a compliment for Nancy Belcher and her fine Bicentennial Committee!

Salisbury Central School has a fine pile of oddments ranging from shoes to lunch boxes to prescription eyeglasses left behind throughout the school year by assorted students. The goods will be passed on to a service organization soon, so anyone whose child lost anything during the year should hustle down to the school office and dig through the pile before the middle of July.

CANAAN — There was standing room only Sunday evening in East Canaan's historic Congregational Church when Canaan began its month-long Bicentennial observance with a religious service and choral presentation. Women in long Colonial costumes greeted the worshippers as they made their way to the church through the cool rainy evening. The main address of the evening was given by the Rev. Frank Blaikie of Christ Episcopal Church, the town's senior clergyman. Following the religious observance of the nation's 200th anniversary, Larry Gates of Cornwall, a television and movie actor, gave a reading of the Declaration of Independence. His reading was in turn followed by a choral presentation of music from periods of crisis in the history of the United States.

Catherine Scott of West Cornwall and her horse, Nabob's Bobby, took first place among 22 contestants in the Junior Pre-training Division at the Glastonbury Pony Club Horse Trials on June 27. Catherine is a member of the newly-organized Housatonic Pony Club.

25 years ago — July 2001

KENT — An air of uncertainty lies in the wake of Friday's referendum vote to terminate the Kent Center School building project. Meeting Monday, the building committee wondered how to respond to the project's termination by a tally of 276-256. Friday's referendum nullified the outcome of an

October referendum that approved the project by a 353-263 vote.

Despite an endowment of over \$2 million, the newly-elected president of the Salisbury Association claims the group can no longer afford to support the Holley-Williams House, considered a rare and important historical resource. A public meeting to discuss the fate of the house is scheduled for July 14 at Town Hall.

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



Realtor® at Large



One of the nicest things about being in real estate is to discover the little jewels here in the Northwest Corner. One of these jewels is the Orchard Hill Baking over in Riverton which offers lovely baked goods on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. My personal favorite is Nell's cinnamon bun focaccia! Her address is 1 Riverton Road and her phone is 860-379-3727.

JOHN HARNEY
Associate Broker with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Office: 19 Main Street, Salisbury, CT 06068
Email: jharney@wpsir.com
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LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice
BOND RESOLUTION DATED JUNE 15, 2026 OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE WEBUTUCK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AUTHORIZING NOT TO EXCEED \$429,327 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND/OR INSTALLMENT PURCHASE CONTRACTS TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION OF A SCHOOL BUSES AND VEHICLES AT AN AGGREGATE ESTIMATED MAXIMUM COST OF \$429,327, LEVY OF TAX IN ANNUAL INSTALLMENTS IN PAYMENT THEREOFTAKING INTO ACCOUNT STATE-AID, THE EXPENDITURE OF SUCH SUM FOR SUCH PURPOSE, AND DETERMINING OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

WHEREAS, the qualified voters of the Webutuck Central School District, New York (the "School District"), at the annual meeting of such voters duly held on the 19 th day of May, 2026,duly approved a roposition authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds and notesand/or entering into installment purchase contracts in an aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$429,327 to finance the acquisition of two (2) 64-passenger school buses and one (1) Bobcat Multipurpose vehicle, the expenditure of such sum for such purposes, and the levy of the necessary tax therefor, to be levied upon the taxable property of the District and collected in annual installments as provided

by Section 416 of the Education Law, taking into account state-aid received;
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS BOARD OF EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS:
Section 1. The School District shall acquire two (2) 64-passenger school buses and one (1) Bobcat Multipurpose vehicle at a cost not to exceed \$429,327, as more particularly described in Section 3 hereof, and as generally outlined to and considered by the voters of the School District at the annual District meeting of May 19, 2026.
Section 2. The School District is hereby authorized to issue its general obligation bonds (the "Bonds") in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$429,327 pursuant to the Local Finance Law of New York and/or enter installment purchase contracts pursuant to the General Municipal Law of New York, in order to finance the class of objects or purposes described herein.
Section 3. The class of objects or purposes to be financed pursuant to this Resolution (the "Purpose") is the acquisition of two (2) 64-passenger school buses and one (1) Bobcat Multipurpose vehicle.
Section 4. It is hereby determined and declared that (a) the maximum cost of the Purpose, as estimated by the Board of Education, is \$429,327, (b) no money has heretofore been authorized to be applied to the payment of the cost of the Purpose, and (c) the School District plans to finance the cost of the Purpose from funds raised by the issuance of the Bonds and bond

anticipation notes, and/or the proceeds of installment purchase agreements hereinafter referred and the aid received from the State of New York.
Section 5. It is hereby determined that the Purpose is one of the class of objects or purposes described in Subdivision 89 of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law, and that the period of probable usefulness of the Purpose is five (5) years.
Section 6. Subject to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the sale of the Bonds, including renewals of such notes, is hereby delegated to the President of the Board of Education, the chief fiscal officer.
Section 7. The power to further authorize the issuance of the Bonds and bond anticipation notes, including renewal notes, and to prescribe the terms, form and contents of the Bonds and bond anticipation notes, including the consolidation with other issues and the use of substantially level or declining debt service, subject to the provisions of this Resolution and the Local Finance Law, and to sell and deliver the Bonds and bond anticipation notes, is hereby delegated to the President of the Board of Education. The President of the Board of Education is hereby authorized to sign and the District Clerk is hereby authorized to attest any Bonds and bond anticipation notes issued pursuant to this Resolution, and the District Clerk is hereby authorized to affix to such Bonds and bond anticipation notes the corporate

seal of the School District.
Section 8. The faith and credit of the Webutuck Central School District are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such Bonds and bond anticipation notes as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations becoming due and payable in such year. There shall be levied annually on all taxable real property of the School District, a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations as the same become due and payable.
Section 9. This Bond Resolution shall constitute the School District's "official intent", within the meaning of Section 1.150-2 of the Treasury Regulations, to finance the cost of the Purpose with Bonds and notes herein authorized. The School District shall not reimburse itself from the proceeds of the Bonds or notes for any expenditures paid more than sixty days prior to the date hereof, unless specifically authorized by Section 1.150-2 of the Treasury Regulations.
Section 10. The power to further authorize the execution of installment purchase agreements and to prescribe the terms, form and contents of the installment purchase contracts, subject to the provisions of this Resolution and the General Municipal Law, is hereby delegated to the President of the Board of Education. The President of the Board of Education is hereby authorized to sign and the District Clerk is hereby authorized to

attest any installment purchase agreements entered into pursuant to this Resolution, and the District Clerk is hereby authorized to affix to such installment purchase agreements the corporate seal of the District.
Section 11. This Resolution, or a summary thereof, shall be published by the District Clerk of the School District together with a notice in substantially the form prescribed by Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law, and such publication shall be in each official newspaper of the School District. The validity of the Bonds or of any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of the Bonds may be contested only if such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which the School District is not authorized to expend money, or the provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this Resolution are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty (20) days after the date of such publication; or if said obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.
Section 12. The law firm Barclay Damon LLP, is hereby appointed as bond counsel to the School District in connection with the issuance of the Bonds and bond anticipation notes authorized herein.
Section 13. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

07-09-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF BERNADETTE A. GANDOLFO, Late of Salisbury, AKA BERNADETTE GANDOLFO (26-00201)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated May 28, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
Robert A. Gandolfo
c/o LINDA M PATZ, DRURY, PATZ & CITRIN, LLP,
7 CHURCH STREET,
P.O. BOX 101,
CANAAN, CT 06018
Jordan Bergs, Clerk
07-09-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF EDLA F. CUSICK Late of New York (26-00073)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated April 30, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
The fiduciary is:
Douglas Clifford
c/o EMILY D VAIL
VAIL & VAIL, LLC
PO BOX 568
SALISBURY, CT 06068
Jordan Bergs, Clerk
07-09-26

Our Towns



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

A Fourth of July parade makes its way through downtown Falls Village.

Cornwall marks July 4 with parade, reading by Sam Waterston

By Ruth Epstein

CORNWALL – An American flag carried by a volunteer firefighter led Cornwall’s Independence Day parade Saturday, followed by an 18th-century colonial militia soldier, a colonial-era violinist, volunteer firefighters, local business owners, residents, children and a handful of dogs as the town celebrated the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

The procession wound through the town green before a few hundred residents gathered to hear actor and Cornwall resident Sam Waterston reflect on the enduring meaning of the nation’s founding document.

The actor said he had spent a good part of his life reading, writing and thinking about the words of Abraham Lincoln, who “never had a feeling politically that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence.”

Quoting the Declaration’s best-known passage beginning with “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness,” Waterston said he found those words to be most inspiring. Formulated



PHOTO BY MAXWELL MURRAY

A Fourth of July parade proceeds through Cornwall.



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Actor and resident Sam Waterston speaks at the July 4 festivities in Cornwall.

by Thomas Jefferson, he noted, they mean every person possesses God-given rights that cannot be taken away.

From the moment the Founding Fathers signed on to that premise, Waterston said there was a new country to live in, “a reason for being, a destination to head for, and a North Star to navigate by. You can’t beat that.” The audience applauded.

Waterston said the idea that all men are created equal promised “that no one could be deprived of the right to

rise in life, follow their own path, seek their own happiness, speak their own mind, practice their own faith, have a free press, all that — and what it meant — that we would not tolerate anyone lordling it over us.”

He concluded by invoking the oft-quoted line, “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice,” and noted that “it applies just as much to us here today as it did when people from this very town mustered on this very green 250 years ago.”



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Lee H. Kellogg School students Esme Moy, left and Piper Peterson with a 250th anniversary time capsule to be buried in front of the historical society building.

Falls Village celebrates Fourth with cannon fire, time capsule

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE – Downtown Falls Village was filled with residents celebrating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on Saturday, July 4.

Four former first selectmen, Pat Mechare, Henry Todd, Lou Timolat and Chuck Lewis, joined current First Selectman Dave Barger in taking turns reading the Declaration. Timolat, Lewis and Barger were in period dress.

Timolat began the reading and was soon interrupted by a blast from a cannon operated by Dusty Blass of D. Blass Excavation, followed by a shout “Happy Birthday!”

After a brief pause, with smoke lingering in the background, he continued.

The reading followed a parade, led by violinist Rachell Gall and guitarist Jim Stey, who played a colonial-era tune.

The parade also featured fire trucks – including one



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Vintage vehicles joined the parade in Falls Village.

carrying Dave and Carmela Barger portraying George and Martha Washington – vintage vehicles, members of the Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department, and members of the Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society, who were also dressed in period costume.

Also in costume was Selectman Judy Jacobs portraying Betsy Ross.

State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) led the Pledge of Allegiance, and students from Lee H. Kellogg School gave the crowd a preview of the time capsule they prepared.

The time capsule contains

letters written by students, a copy of the latest town report, cards from local businesses, a brochure from the historical society, and pennies. Krista Barger, a par-aeducator at the school, said that the students thought it important to include the now-discontinued pennies.

The time capsule will be buried in front of the historical society building on Railroad Street. Organizers are still deciding when it will be opened, though Barger said they are leaning toward 50 years from now, when the students who created it will be in their early 60s.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Braelynn Mrowka, 9, a fourth grader at North Canaan Elementary School, reads part of the Declaration of Independence on Saturday, July 4 at the Town Green as celebrants looked on and rang bells.

North Canaan celebrates with bells and the Declaration of Independence

By John Coston

NORTH CANAAN – Community members gathered on the Town Green Saturday, July 4, to celebrate the nation’s 250th anniversary with a reading of the Declaration of Independence and a ceremonial ringing of bells.

The celebration brought together residents of all ages, including several dressed in

Early American attire, to honor the milestone.

Among those taking part in the reading was North Canaan resident Geoff Drury, who read part of the Declaration of Independence. Braelynn Mrowka, 9, a fourth grader at North Canaan El-

ementary School, also read part of the historic document. Attendees followed along and rang bells.

Community members like Patricia Hall Graf of North Canaan were invited to sign a copy of the Declaration of Independence.

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



Salisbury band plays patriotic tunes after a reading of the Declaration of Independence.

Kent hosts two-day celebration, adapts plans to account for extreme heat

By Alec Linden and Ruth Epstein

KENT – The nation’s 250th festivities kicked off on Friday, July 3, with a “Lights and Liberty Parade” down Main Street that featured a fife and drum trio that led George and Martha Washington – husband and wife duo Bill Watts and Sarah Chase – with the Kent Volunteer Fire Department. Chase chaired the town’s USA 250 Subcommittee, which planned a full week-end of patriotic programming. Hot weather forced the post-parade entertainment from a bonfire and s’mores to watermelon, popsicles and the “KVFD Mega Soaker,” which was more of a waterfall than a spritzer. Despite the last minute change,

the Mega Soaker, courtesy of the Fire Department, proved to be a hit. As kids and adults revelled in the spray, Town Clerk Darlene Brady, who helped organize much of the evening as a member of the USA 250 Subcommittee, said she couldn’t have been happier with the outcome. “It’s more than I could have envisioned or expected,” she said, “I’m really proud of the community.” On Saturday, it was standing-room only during the signing of the Declaration of Independence at the Community House. Civic organizations had booths, the Lions Club provided hot dogs and soda and the 250 Committee provided a large flag cake baked by So Delicious bakery. Town Clerk Darlene



Kent residents sign a symbolic Declaration of Independence on July 4 at the Community House.

Brady explained the “Let Freedom Ring Project,” a tradition inspired by local artist and collector Eric Sloane that started years ago. In 1962, Sloane and his friend Eric Hatch pitched the idea of a coordinated nationwide celebration. The suggestion was brought to the attention of then Sen. Abraham Ribicoff, who presented a resolution to the Senate. The matter was forwarded to President John F. Kennedy, who proclaimed the Fourth of July to be ‘National Bell Ringing Day’ through a resolution in 1963. Late Saturday, after the storm passed, fireworks were held at Lake Waramaug, a bit later than planned.



A lake boat is decked out in patriotic decor ahead of the boat parade at the Town Grove July 4.

Salisbury strikes up the band and sets sail at Town Grove

By Aly Morrissey

SALISBURY – The parking lot was full and the beach was packed as residents and visitors of all ages flocked to the Town Grove to celebrate the country’s 250th anniversary on Saturday, July 4. Throughout the afternoon, people cooled off in the lake, ate hot dogs and enjoyed patriotic songs from the Salisbury Band under a blazing hot sun. Concertgoers – many clad in red, white and blue – sat beneath a canopy of trees as they listened to a live reading of the Declaration of Independence, followed by familiar tunes. As always, Lou Bucciari assumed the role of Heman Allen, brother of Ethan Allen, who lived in Salisbury for about 20 years. Allen was one of more than 25 Salisbury men who lost their lives in the Revolutionary War. Bucciari read the Declaration of Inde-

pendence in a booming, theatrical voice for the 24th year. Bucciari said he keeps coming back year after year because, “It’s the Fourth of July!” He added that the event is a way to stay connected with the Salisbury Association, which sponsors the celebration. “And it’s great material,” he said. Asked whether he has the Declaration memorized by now, he joked, “No...it’s far too long with too many grievances.” A boat parade also took place, with vessels decked out in patriotic decorations as they cruised Lake Wononscopomuc, creating a colorful scene on the water for beachgoers. Informational signs were posted throughout the Grove, highlighting Salisbury’s historic buildings and role in the nation’s early days. As the storm rolled in, the laser light show at Satre Hill was canceled.



A KVFD Mega Soaker took the place of a bonfire during Kent’s Fourth of July festivities.

Sharon marks Independence Day with Declaration reading, reenactors

By Phoebe Tobin

Residents of Sharon and beyond gathered on the Lawn of the Hotchkiss Library and the Sharon Historical Society & Museum on July 4 to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence with historical reenactments, a public reading of the Declaration, and family activities. The celebration kicked off at noon with two firings of a cannon by colonial reenactors. Afterward, a crowd of visitors gathered around a display of historical artifacts while one reenactor explained their significance. Throughout the afternoon, reenactors stationed around the library and museum grounds helped recreate the atmosphere of the Revolutionary era. Hotchkiss Library Executive Director Gretchen Hackmeister, who served on a town committee that organized the event, said planning had been underway for about a year. “I remember the bicentennial when I was a kid, and it was really fun and meaningful, so I wanted to be part of it again,” Hack-

meister said. “At the library we are reading the Declaration of Independence, so I helped organize that, and I’m excited about that. I think it’s particularly meaningful right now.” At 12:30 p.m., community

members took turns reading sections of the Declaration of Independence. As readers recited the Declaration’s list of grievances against the British Crown, the audience responded to each one with a spirited chorus of boos.

Attendees Scott and Michelle Pastor said they came to celebrate both the nation’s history and their community. “We were here on the 200th,” Scott Pastor said. “I would ask anybody why they’re not here.” “We are proud of our

country,” Michelle Pastor added, who also expressed pride from being from Sharon. “I was born and raised here.” The couple said their favorite part of the celebration was seeing so many members of the community come together to mark the

occasion. The event also featured hot dogs and an ice cream truck, all free as a part of the celebration. The event concluded at 2 p.m. with the ringing of bells, a tradition observed across the country, followed by a final cannon salute to mark the occasion.



The cannon goes off during Sharon’s Fourth of July celebration.



Colonial reenactors set the scene at Sharon’s Fourth of July celebration.

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Our Towns

Clean-up continues after strongest storm to hit Northwest Corner in years



An aerial view of the damage in downtown Salisbury, where a tree was uprooted in front of the Scoville Library.

PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

STORM

Continued from Page A1

do was responsible for the extreme damage, meteorologists said there was no evidence to support those claims. Samantha Lankowicz, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Albany, said the most likely cause of the damage was strong winds.

“We looked over the radar and we didn’t see anything that would suggest there was a tornado – there were no strong signs of rotation,” Lankowicz said, adding that their radar did pick up strong, straight-line winds up to 60 and 70 miles per hour.

Although thunderstorms were predicted, most residents were not notified about the severity until shortly before the storm struck.

Meteorologist Jack Drake, who covers western Connecticut, said the storm was warned as “severe” about 30 minutes before it reached Salisbury, but it was not upgraded to a “considerable damage” warning until after it had already passed through Falls Village. He attributed the delay in part to limited radar coverage in Litchfield County, making it more difficult to assess the storm’s intensity.

Drake described the storm as a “classic discrete supercell” and one of the strongest to hit the region in recent years, estimating wind gusts may have exceeded 80 mph. He said highly localized summer storms remain difficult to forecast.

Towns declare local states of emergency
The Town of Canaan (Falls Village) declared a local State of Emergency Sunday morning as a result

of the storm damage. First Selectman David Barger said the move could help relieve the financial burden of the storm if state or federal funds become available.

On Sunday afternoon, Salisbury, Cornwall, Goshen, Harwinton and Torrington followed suit, each declaring a local State of Emergency.

“We want to be able to utilize all of our resources,” Barger said, adding that town crews have been called in for overtime hours to support the clean-up.

He said he received calls from North Canaan and Kent town officials who offered their support.

“They stand ready to help us,” he said. “The towns in Region One have really been drawn together.”

Salisbury First Selectman Curtis Rand also expressed his gratitude for the community support.

“It’s incredible how many have offered help and expressed concern,” he said. “It’s a beautiful thing.”

No injuries reported

As of early Sunday afternoon, state police at Troop B in North Canaan had not received reports of any injuries from the storms.

Sharon Hospital lost power for a short period of time Saturday night but the emergency generators kicked on and services were not interrupted, hospital supervisor Elizabeth Barrows said.

While Barrows could not confirm whether the storm resulted in any injuries, she said the hospital saw a number of visits from patients who were unable to use their portable oxygen concentrators as a result of power loss.

“The town is absolutely devastated. Trees and powerlines are slashed in half. The whole town is without power.”

Rob LaBonne, owner of Labonne’s Market



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Undermountain Road (Route 41) northbound at Cobble Road in Salisbury at about 8:15 p.m. July 4.

Thousands left without power for days

More than 70,000 Eversource customers in Connecticut were without power Sunday morning after the storm. That number dropped to just under 15,000 by Monday evening, July 6.

However, progress was slow in the Northwest Corner. In Salisbury, 93% of customers remained without power as of 1 p.m. Sunday, with 2,792 of 3,006 customers affected. By Monday morning, 80% of Salisbury customers were still without power. By Monday night, 42% of customers were still out, or 1,272 people.

Falls Village was also heavily affected, with more than 50% of cus-

tomers without power on Sunday. The number dropped significantly to 7% Monday morning.

Just under 20% of Sharon residents were impacted, with 415 customers without power as of Monday morning.

Gov. Ned Lamont said in a statement that repairs in certain areas could take days due to the scale of the damage.

“The utilities have called down additional crews from Canada to help restore power in Connecticut as soon as possible,” he said.

Salisbury First Selectman Curtis Rand said he has been contacting Eversource regularly since the



PHOTO BY MADI LONG

Utility crews make repairs in Salisbury.

storm.

In addition to the power outages, downed wires remained an issue as of Monday night, creating single-lane roads in and

out of Salisbury. Rand said between 30 and 35 poles snapped.

“We’re really beholden to Eversource and I’m reaching out all the time.”

Scenes from the storm



PHOTO BY MADI LONG



PHOTO BY MADI LONG



PHOTO BY PATRICK SULLIVAN



PHOTO BY MADI LONG



PHOTO BY MADI LONG

Our Towns

“It’s incredible how many have offered help and expressed concern. It’s a beautiful thing.”

First Selectman Curtis Rand



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Betsy Maury, left, charges her phone and chats with HVRHS Facilities Manager Jeff Lloyd.

HVRHS, Falls Village Emergency Services Center open for families in need

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE – Housatonic Valley Regional High School opened Monday, July 6 and Tuesday, July 7 as a resource center for Region One residents affected by the July 4 storms, offering locker room showers, fresh water, charging stations and access to the internet from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

By late Monday morning, Facilities Manager Jeff Lloyd said about a dozen residents had stopped by, primarily to charge electronic devices, though no one had used the showers. Cell service and the school’s Wi-Fi were spotty through the morning.

Among those seeking relief were Betsy and V.J. Maury of Lakeville, who

came to recharge their devices, and Andrea Hubbard and her son, Camden, whose soccer camp had been canceled. Although their home escaped damage, Hubbard said they were glad to get out of the house after riding out the storm Saturday evening.

The district also canceled all school activities, including camps and Extended Year services, and asked employees to work remotely Monday and Tuesday.

The Falls Village Emergency Services Center also opened Sunday morning as a water and power source for those in need. The center remained open until 8 p.m., and said they would open again as needed.



PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

Crews work on a barely-visible road in Salisbury with trees on wires and the pavement covered with debris.



Left: A tree falls on the historic Academy Building, which houses the Salisbury Association. Right: Resident Ben Blackwell directs traffic in Salisbury as motorists navigate road closures.



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

LaBonne’s notified customers it was open in Salisbury on Monday, July 6.

Local businesses impacted by storm

Businesses in Salisbury and Falls Village were forced to close their doors due to widespread power outages. In Lakeville and Salisbury, establishments like Sweet Williams Coffee Shop & Bakery, Salisbury General Store, Provisions at The White Hart Inn, Roaring Oaks Florist, and The Woodland Restaurant had to close Sunday and Monday.

The Salisbury/Sharon Transfer Station also closed Monday.

Rob LaBonne, owner of LaBonne’s Market, took to social media Sunday morning after the storm to tell customers the market was closed with power lines down in the parking lot and a loss of electricity and internet.

“The town is absolutely devastated,” LaBonne wrote on Facebook. “Trees and powerlines are slashed in half. The whole town is without power.”

He said electricians arrived late Saturday night to help the market owner empty refrigerator cases and restore power through a generator. The grocery store remained closed on Sunday but reopened Monday with power and internet to allow for credit card transactions. The parking lot remained limited with orange cones marking the downed wires.

Some businesses, including the transfer station, started to reopen Tuesday as power was restored.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The lawn of the popular White Hart Inn in Salisbury is covered with a fallen tree. Diners sheltered at the inn during and after Saturday’s storm.

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LET’S EAT CAKE

Continued from Page A1

the extraordinary array of cakes that were on the auction block. Most of the entries displayed a deep sense of artistry and creativity, resulting in compliments and looks of amazement as visitors strolled around the tables to get a preview.

“My mother was a professional baker,” said Joe Baxer of Kent, as he marveled at one of the intricately designed confections. “She’d be thrilled to see these.”

Susan Bang of Sharon attended the event for the first time and said, “Everyone told me this was amazing, and they were right.”

Bidding was brisk as the three auctioneers, Christopher Robinson, Brian Ross and Danny Tieger, moved the action along.

One cake that attracted a great deal of attention was a joint entry by First Selectman Casey Flanagan and selectmen Lynn Kearcher and John Brett. Dubbed, “the Better Mousetrap,” the rich chocolate ganache cake with raspberry cream layers was topped with a whimsical mousetrap cheeseboard and tiny chocolate mice. It was meant to pay tribute to Sharon’s industrial past.

Its description read, “In 1857, Sharon resident Judson Bostwick perfected the mousetrap, earning the town the title of Mousetrap Capital of the World. His spring-loaded basswood trap helped protect farm communities across America by controlling rodents that spoiled feed and spread disease.” The cake garnered \$1,000.

Another favorite that also went for \$1,000 was the



PHOTOS BY RUTH EPSTEIN
Guests at the Let’s Eat Cake view the entries before the bidding starts.

Christopher Robinson, president of the Sharon Historical Society board of directors, seeks a bid at Friday’s Let’s Eat Cake event.

“Bee’s Knees” baked by Lucy Savo. A three-layer chocolate cake, it was decorated with white chocolate honeycomb and edible bees and flowers.

Going for \$1,300 was the “Young Marrieds” by Matthew Marden, who explained “it got its unusual name when it became very popular at dinner parties given by young married couples in Hingham, Mass., in

the 1970s. It was a two-layer carrot cake with cream cheese frosting and covered in crushed walnuts.

“Let Them Eat Flowers” by Domanie Guerrera was a white cake with Italian meringue frosting, organic roasted strawberries and edible organic flowers. The description noted, “In this hectic world we live in, it’s not only important to stop

and smell the flowers but maybe go one step further and EAT them!” It sold for \$700.

“The Classic Birthday Cake” by Sarah Collins secured the highest bid at \$2,500. According to Collins, this triple-layer yellow cake with vanilla buttercream used to be sold at the now-closed Wayland Bakery in Providence. “One bite will take you right back to childhood,” wrote Collins on the description. “It comes with a piping bag and extra icing so you can write your own custom message on top.”

For the first time, the auction had a raffle, and three cakes were given free to the winners.

Nonprofit brings furry friends to David M. Hunt Library

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE – About 18 children gathered around half a dozen guinea pigs at the David M. Hunt Library on Tuesday, June 30, as Marjorie Borreda and Katie Hamilton of Le Petit Ranch in Sheffield, Massachusetts, led an educational program. The nonprofit organization provides educational and community-based opportunities through animal-assisted activities.

The young children and their parents filled the children’s area as Borreda explained that the furry, cute critters are generally friendly with people and always appreciate a steady supply of treats in the form of lettuce and carrots.

Guinea pigs do not like a hubbub, however, so Borreda asked the children to lower their voices.

“Hush, hush” she said, motioning with her hands until the room was quiet. “The guinea pigs get very anxious when it’s noisy.”

The ratio of children to guinea pigs meant that each animal got to meet a group of three children. Following Borreda’s instructions, the children gently petted the guinea pigs before offering them bits of lettuce.

The animal enthusiasts then had an opportunity



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN
It was guinea pigs galore at the D. M. Hunt Library July 2 with Sheffield-based nonprofit Le Petit Ranch.

to build either a guinea pig house or a guinea pig maze. The houses, made from cardboard boxes, took a little longer to construct than the mazes, which involved setting up plastic walls and ramps on a cloth on the floor.

Once the children had constructed their maze, a guinea pig was introduced. With bits of lettuce and carrot to entice the animals, they soon navigated the mazes.

Borreda is the founder and program director of Le Petit Ranch, and Hamilton is a volunteer.

The organization provides animal-assisted activities, defined as “structured interactions with animals that promote comfort, connection, and overall well-being.”

Guided by trained handlers, each session ensures safe and meaningful engage-

ment between people and animals.

Borreda said the organization also visits hospitals, schools, libraries, nursing homes and rehabilitation centers with guinea pigs, miniature horses, greyhounds and chickens.

NARCOTICS

Continued from Page A1

ed a similar type of illegal THC products to the January seizure, but a lower amount.

Cannabis retail was legalized in Connecticut in 2023 with appropriate licensing, but municipalities can regulate or prevent cannabis sale locally via ordinance. Recreational retail was approved in North Canaan through a narrow vote in 2023, but Smoker’s Choice does not carry such a license to sell THC products. Under state law, cannabis can only be sold through licensed dispensaries.

According to the Res-

E. JEAN CARROLL

Continued from Page A1



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon will host its annual Sharon Summer Book Signing event July 31 to Aug. 2.

ing death threats related to a recent Supreme Court decision and the president’s subsequent posts on social media.

There is no known local threat at the library or in the surrounding communities at the time of the event, Troop B of Connecticut State Police confirmed.

Hachmeister said library officials are operating under the assumption that she will not join.

“We are disappointed, of course, but her safety is our number one concern,” Hachmeister said.

Ticket sales for Carroll’s signing and cocktail party have been paused on the Hotchkiss Library website until further notice.

Carroll was planning to promote her New York Times bestselling memoir, “Not My Type: One Woman vs. a President,” which was published in June 2025 and details her highly publicized legal battles with President Trump.

The ongoing dispute has received widespread attention over the past seven years after Carroll accused Trump of sexually assaulting her in a luxury department store in the mid-1990s. She filed two separate civil suits: a \$5 million sexual abuse and defamation suit, and a second \$83.3 million defamation suit in 2023 and 2024, respectively. She won both cases.

Trump has made claims that he never met Carroll, call-

ing the lawsuit a “fake case.”

On Monday, June 29, Trump took to Truth Social – a social media platform he owns and operates – after the Supreme Court declined to review his final appeal attempt of the 2023 decision.

In the post, Trump said the New York Adult Survivors Act – which temporarily allowed survivors to come forward and file civil suits against abusers despite expired statutes of limitation – was “tailormade” to “nab” him.

“I will continue the fight against this Weaponization and Lawfare Case against me, including the ridiculous claim of Defamation, with all of my power and strength,” the President wrote.

Carroll was one guest in an extensive lineup of authors scheduled to attend The Hotchkiss Library’s 28th annual Sharon Summer Book Signing, which draws authors from across the region to the Northwest Corner.

The event is scheduled to take place July 31 through Aug. 2 and will once again feature book signings, author dinners, a summer reading kids carnival and brunch with New York Times food columnist Melissa Clark. The event will also continue its second annual Page to Plate event, which brings cookbooks to life in an immersive culinary-literary experience.

Tickets are available at hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org.



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

The second drug bust in two years occurred at Smokers Choice in North Canaan on June 30.

ident Trooper’s Office, the initial search in January was prompted by reports of underage customers purchas-

ing cannabis products at area stores.

As of July 4, Smoker’s Choice remained open.

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PHOTO BY DEAN CHAMBERLAIN

Belinda Sinclair

The magic of Belinda Sinclair

By D.H. Callahan

Belinda Sinclair is the kind of magician who impresses people who don't like magic. Her tricks are mind-boggling. Her stories are captivating. And if she picks you to write your name on a card, get ready to be wowed. Repeat attendees of her shows, of which there are many, take almost as much delight in watching new jaws drop as they do in seeing an illusion reach its astonishing conclusion.

Since the summer of 2025, Sinclair has been baffling local audiences at the Hughes Memorial Library in West Cornwall, but her magical run comes to a close at the end of August.

For 45 years, Sinclair, a New York City native, has been hosting small, intimate performances in the "Conjuring Room," her Victorian parlor in Hell's Kitchen. It's a place made for magic,

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

THEATER

Local playwright revisits Revolutionary moment in "Rebel Town"

By Jack Sheedy

John Alan Segalla was working in Boston a few years ago, giving historic tours at the site of the Boston Tea Party. Now, as America celebrates 250 years as a nation, the Canaan native is about to debut a new version of his original musical, "Rebel Town," inspired largely by the Boston Tea Party, the protest that helped launch the American Revolution.

"It wasn't until I got to Boston and learned the Tea Party story that I fell in love with this moment in history, and I saw the story as wildly compelling and very important, and really a story that was very misunderstood, mistaught in schools," Segalla said at a recent rehearsal in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, ahead of the show's July 10 opening.

Segalla wrote most of the script during 2020, hoping to produce it by

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

BUSINESS

Tenmile Distillery is making history the old-fashioned way

By D.H. Callahan

In December 2024, the U.S. Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau officially established the Standard of Identity for American Single Malt Whisky. It was the first new classification in more than half a century, creating new possibilities for American distillers. One of the distilleries taking advantage of this new landscape is Wassaic's Tenmile Distillery. It is well positioned to make history because Tenmile has always honored traditional whiskey-making practices.

Single malts are often associated with Scotch whisky. Perhaps that's why, years before the new standard was adopted, Tenmile hired Shane Fraser, a Scottish master distiller with 30 years of experience at some of Scotland's most prestigious distilleries. Fraser began designing the distillery from the ground up. Alongside owner and general manager Joel LeVangia, he emphasized time-honored traditions, favoring hands-on craftsmanship over the increasingly automated methods used by larger producers. When it comes to making the best whisky possible, Tenmile believes in learning from the past. That philosophy extends beyond the distilling process.

In late 2025, in anticipation of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the distillery introduced its Revolutionary Whisky Series. The collection features 57 unique expressions, each with its own combination of barrel types and aging peri-



PHOTOS BY D.H. CALLAHAN

Cheers! The Revolutionary Whisky Series at Ten Mile Distillery, each named for a significant battle of the American Revolution, celebrates America at 250.



ods, and each named for a significant battle of the American Revolution.

LeVangia sees the series not only as something collectible — a hallmark of the international craft distilling world — but also as an opportunity to educate. Most Americans learn about the Revolution in high school U.S. history classes, but LeVangia wanted to go beyond familiar stories such as Washington crossing the Delaware or the famous command to wait until soldiers could see "the whites of their eyes." Each bottle helps tell a deeper story.

To bring those stories to life,

Tenmile has gone the extra — dare they say, 11th — mile. Tom Bouldin, Ph.D., serves as the distillery's historian. He consults on the series, helping LeVangia and Fraser connect each expression to an appropriate battle of the American Revolution. He also leads Tenmile's lecture series. While some of Bouldin's talks explore the history of popular music, his primary focus is the battles of the American Revolution.

With each new release, Tenmile hosts an intimate evening of history and whisky tasting. Centered on Bouldin's meticulously researched lectures,

the events often spark broader conversations about the battles, the people who fought them and what those events still mean today. It's a style of promotion rarely seen today. Although the distillery and its grounds are stunning, these gatherings are not designed as Instagram photo opportunities. Instead, they bring together a small group of people eager to learn from the past while tasting something new.

That is what the Revolutionary Whisky Series — and Tenmile Distillery as a whole — is all about: learning from history while forging its own.

MUSIC

"Nixon in China" comes to Tanglewood

By Richard Feiner
And Annette Stover

On Friday, July 17 at 8 p.m. in the Koussevitzky Music Shed at Tanglewood, two of the greatest American voices of their generation, soprano Renée Fleming and baritone Thomas Hampson, join Music Director Andris Nelsons and the Boston Symphony Orchestra in a performance of excerpts from John Adams' groundbreaking opera "Nixon in China." The piece, performed earlier this year in Boston and at Carnegie Hall in New York City, is a highlight of a program that also includes "Meditations on Grace" (2024) by BSO Composer Chair Carlos Simon, and the melodic and technically demanding Violin Concerto by Samuel Barber.

Fleming is internationally celebrated for her vocal and dramatic artistry, as well as for her advocacy for the powerful impact of the creative arts in health. Hampson has long been recognized as one of the most innovative musicians of our time and has received countless international honors for his singular artistry and cultural leadership.

Both performed in "Nixon in China" earlier this year at the Paris Opera under the baton of Kent Nagano.

Adams' "Three Scenes from Nixon in China" is a suite taken from the opera and prepared especially for the BSO performanc-

es with Fleming and Hampson in the roles of Pat and Richard Nixon. The suite includes Act I, Scene I, in which the Nixons arrive in Beijing; Pat Nixon's "This is prophetic" aria from Act II, Scene I; and Nixon's speech followed by a chorus of toasts

and cheers ("Gam bei!") in Act I, Scene III.

The full opera premiered in 1987 and has become one of the most celebrated works of contemporary American music. As

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2



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INSIDE

OUR TOWNS

Sharon bids farewell to two longtime town employees

CALENDAR

A list of upcoming events



... Belinda Sinclair

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

with built-in surprises designed to disorient. But the Hughes Library doesn't have the same potential to perplex. The room is, as the name suggests, a library, with shelves packed tightly with old books. Some of those books, stocked by Sinclair herself, dive into the history of women and magic. That particular topic is the organizing principle of her show.

Today, we live in a world with large-scale magic productions from household names like David Blaine. Penn & Teller and Criss Angel had widely popular television series, while performers like magician and comedian Justin Willman have found audiences on Netflix. David Copperfield, the most commercially successful magician in history, only recently had his 25-year Las Vegas residency cancelled, after allegations connected to the Jeffrey Epstein investigation resurfaced. But very few women, arguably none, have reached the highest levels of fame in the magic world.

Sinclair's show explores the ways women have been practicing forms of magic for centuries, and there is plenty of history to tell. Her head is simply full of historical anecdotes and interpretations. She seems to know everything there is to know about magic and how, over the centuries, it has been feared and misunderstood.

It's knowledge she acquired through decades in the world of magic. Sinclair got her start by accident. After graduating from

New York City's High School of Performing Arts, she was hired to entertain a long business conference as a clown. Despite having no clowning experience, she did so well that she was hired for a party on the spot where she was expected to perform magic. She didn't know a single trick. So she headed to Tannen's, the legendary Manhattan magic shop that is still open to this day, and asked them to teach her.

She was so captivated by the first trick she learned that she soon began illustrating the shop's newsletter, the "Trickune." Soon, she had worked her way into the world of magic. But her trajectory seemed limited. Women in magic were, and frequently still are, relegated to the role of "lovely assistant," and Sinclair was no exception. She played along, laughing at the bad jokes and flirting with the right men, all the while knowing she could perform better than most of them.

Soon, she stopped playing along. She started developing her own routines. She became increasingly proficient with a deck of cards. She practiced and practiced and practiced. Eventually, the magic establishment took notice of this young magician with the audacity to be a woman.

As her reputation grew, so did the challenges she faced. Break-

ing into the inner circles of magic is no easy task, but Sinclair knew that if she wanted to be taken seriously, she needed to impress the people at the top. The Magic Circle, a prestigious British society whose members have included Penn & Teller, Stephen Fry and King Charles III, evaluates prospective members through a rigorous performance examination that includes required tricks. Sinclair earned a perfect score of 100 out of 100, proving not only that a woman could perform magic, but that she could perform it as well, if not better, than anyone.

As remarkable as her skills are, there's a lot more to Sinclair than magic. She's a ceramicist, hypnotherapist, author, game creator, actor and coder. But perhaps most importantly, she's a teacher.

Sinclair thrives on helping others navigate through whatever obstacles life throws their way. For a time, that meant helping military veterans with PTSD transition to civilian life. She teaches children how to code so they can build their own websites. She works with unhealed children, using magic to boost their confidence. But if she has her way, the most important lesson she can teach is that with the right amount of work and determination, anyone — and especially little girls — can do the impossible.

“Sinclair’s show explores the ways women have been practicing forms of magic for centuries, and there is plenty of history to tell.”

... ‘Nixon in China’

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

The New Yorker wrote, “Not since ‘Porgy and Bess’ has an American opera won such universal acclaim as ‘Nixon in China.’”

The libretto is based on Nixon's groundbreaking February 1972 visit to reestablish diplomatic ties with the People's Republic of China. The production was controversial at the time: an opera about a recent American president whose resignation was still vivid in the country's memory. Created by a first-time opera composer, a poet new to opera (Alice Goodman) and a young avant-garde director (Peter Sellars), the piece defied expectations of what a contemporary opera could be.

Yet “Nixon in China” has proved to be something far more than a provocation; it has been hailed as helping to revitalize American opera. It uses realistic scenarios based on recent historical events to make direct statements about big social questions, especially the status of women in



PHOTO BY HILARY SCOTT

Renée Fleming, Andris Nelsons and Thomas Hampson.

history and society. It is also credited with helping to create the subgenre of the “headline opera,” works that refract the mythology of recent real-life events and personalities through the lens of operatic music, words and staging.

Adams' score is a dazzling fusion of rhythmic vitality and luminous choral textures with the psychological intricacy of character drama. It reflects the composer's ongoing search, as he has put it, to find “the sacred in the everyday.” The

result is a distinctive kind of music theater that transforms historical and contemporary narratives into modern parables in order to explore the tension between public facade and private reckoning, and between human motive and moral choice.

This Tanglewood concert promises to be a highlight of the summer's music season. It is part of the BSO's E Pluribus Unum festival, a multiyear celebration that shines a spotlight on American music to explore the country's history and ideals and to raise critical questions on topics that shape our collective experience.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit bso.org.

.. ‘Rebel Town’

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



PHOTO BY JACK SHEEDY

The cast and crew of “Rebeltown: The Musical.”

2023, the Tea Party's 250th anniversary. He finally mounted a version of the show in Stockbridge in 2024. It ran a bit long, he said, so the current iteration is more compact, running well under two hours.

The musical focuses on the lives of carpenter William Grey (played by Segalla), his wife Sarah Grey (Emma Robertson) and apprentice Peter Slater Jr. (Ryleigh Filio), with appearances by historical figures such as Paul Revere (Chris Vecchia), Samuel Adams (Ryan Mascikak) and John Hancock (Christopher Boswell).

The action follows the clandestine meetings of the Sons of Liberty as they plan the bold destruction of British-taxed tea in Boston Harbor, culminating in Paul Revere's storied ride, featuring a mechanical horse designed by technical director Ronald Piazza. According to the show's website, “As rebellion turns to revolution, the cost becomes deeply personal: families are torn apart, loyalties tested, and the line between heroism and sacrifice begins to blur.”

The show is directed by Actors' Equity member Michael Siktberg, who has worked at Bucks County Playhouse, Sharon Playhouse, the Ogunquit Theatre among other venues during the past 20 years. He said, “I originally agreed to do this because of John, because of my love and respect for him and our growing friendship.”

He said he sees parallels between events of 250 years ago and today, noting “how they echoed the themes of our lives now.”

The participants in the Tea Party thought they would make a difference. “What is fascinating to me,” Siktberg continued, “is that they really tried to do it peacefully, they really tried a statement without bloodshed.”

But it didn't work. King George III retaliated with the Intolerable Acts,

ultimately inspiring the Declaration of Independence and the Revolution.

Rebecca Gardner, assistant stage manager, said the show could be thought of as the “Hamilton” of Boston. “It's not Hamilton's Revolutionary War story; it's not '1776'; it's another story of that era, which hasn't been told before,” she said.

Emilyn Bona, also an assistant stage manager, said she has known and worked in theater with Segalla since high school. Even though she now lives in Albany, she said she jumped at the chance to work on Segalla's latest creation.

Segalla is a Dramatists Guild member and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theater from Russell Sage College. He has toured nationally as Jack in “Magic Tree House: Soars with Reading.” He co-authored a farce, “Moral Dilemmas of the Modern Day Vampire,” which was produced Off-Off-Broadway and in New England. He has performed extensively and received numerous awards, including the New Hampshire Theatre Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Drama for his performance as Don Armado in Shakespeare's “Love's Labour's Lost.”

“This is not a musical that's taking any political side, left or right,” said Segalla. “It's meant to be a unifier, and it's meant to be something to educate and to remind people that this moment in history seeded the Declaration.” He said he hopes it will inspire “a renewed sense of pride in the earliest American values of what we wanted to be, a renewed sense of spirit in what we could become: that shining city on a hill.”

“Rebel Town: The Musical” runs July 10 through 19 at the Kathleen E. McDermott Auditorium, Monument Mountain Regional High School, Great Barrington, Massachusetts. For tickets and more information, go to www.rebel-townthemusical.com.

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Gridley Chapel at The Wassaic Project.

MUSIC

Free sinonó concert launches Wassaic Project’s music season

By Lucia Iandolo

The Wassaic Project will host its first musical act of the season at the Gridley Chapel on Saturday, July 11. The event is free and was made possible with funding from a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts.

Officially opening in October, the Chapel will come alive with the sounds of sinonó, a trio featuring vocalist and composer isabel crespo pardo, cellist Lester St. Louis and bassist Henry Fraser. The group draws on Latin American folk and classical chamber music to create what it calls “poemsongs.”

NYSCLA is a state agency that provides funding for artistic projects through grants, including the Support for Artists grant opportunity.

Kassandra Gonzalez, development and communications assistant at the Wassaic Project, said the program allows the organization to support artists in their current and future projects.

“We really care about supporting artists and sustaining artistic practices,” Gonzalez said. “A big part of that, which no one likes to talk about, is having enough funds to make projects possible.”

The Wassaic Project has received this grant since 2022 to support artists in New York state who are part of its program and need funding for future projects. The grant includes nearly \$10,000 in direct support for artists’ creative work and allows the organization to present programming it might not otherwise be able to offer, including the July 11 performance.

Gonzalez said there is a common misconception that accessible arts programming is available only in New York City, and the Wassaic Project continues working to make art available to everyone in the community.

“Wassaic Project continues to be a force for good and remains very focused on community,” Gonzalez said. “The idea behind the suggested donation, and making sure that everything is essentially free, is to let people in the area know they can come here and make this their community space.”

The Gridley Chapel is located across the street from Maxon Mills at 37 Furnace Bank Road, Wassaic. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free, and guests can RSVP at wassaicproject.org



PHOTO PROVIDED

Community mural design by Macayla Muzzulin will be painted by volunteers on July 11 in Franklin Plaza in Torrington.

COMMUNITY

An invitation to paint a community mural in Torrington

By Natalia Zukerman

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 11, Five Points Arts in Torrington will host a community mural project celebrating the nation’s 250th anniversary. Volunteers of every age and artistic ability are invited to help paint a 20-by-6-foot mural designed by artist Macayla Muzzulin. The mural will be completed in one day, transformed from a numbered outline into a permanent public artwork along the river in downtown Torrington.

“We firmly believe art is for everyone,” said Five Points founder and executive director, Judith McElhone. “It’s so great to be

able to do this with such talent, and with Launchpad artists, volunteers and staff there to help.”

A recent graduate of the Hartford Art School, Muzzulin is one of Five Points’ Launchpad artists, an initiative that provides shared studio space and professional support to emerging artists. About two dozen artists work from studios above the downtown gallery, where they have access to facilities, mentorship and a creative community.

Muzzulin’s connection to Five Points began long before she became a professional artist.

“She’s been with us since she was 14 years old as a volunteer,” said McEl-

hone. “I knew her skill level and that she would be perfect for this.”

Muzzulin has not created a finished color rendering of the mural. Instead, participants will be working from her numbered design, matching paint colors to corresponding sections. Like many community murals, the artwork will emerge through collective effort rather than individual authorship.

Five Points has expanded steadily over the years. What began as a 740-square-foot summer storefront gallery through the Torrington Arts and Culture Commission’s temporary Art Space Torrington initiative in

2012 has evolved into one of Connecticut’s leading contemporary arts organizations. Today, the non-profit includes a gallery that has exhibited nearly 1,800 artists and an Arts Center that provides studios, exhibition space and educational programing. This community mural continues that evolution by bringing art beyond the gallery walls and into the heart of downtown, further cementing Five Points’ role in Torrington’s cultural revival.

The project is sponsored by The City of Torrington, Neag Foundation, Jerry’s Artarama in West Hartford and the NWCT Arts Council. For more information, visit fivepointsarts.org.

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JULY 17 - 26

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by Sarah Ruhl
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PHOTO PROVIDED

Final viewing: Karen Marston’s “Melting Ship,” a site-specific mural painted directly onto the wall at The Re Institute at 1395 Boston Corners Road in Millerton, will disappear when the exhibition “Seven Women Chase Icebergs” closes Sunday, July 12. Created after a 2025 residency in Newfoundland’s “Iceberg Alley,” the work is open to the public during the show’s final weekend, Friday, July 10 through Sunday, July 12 from 1 to 4 p.m.

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Tri-Corner Calendar

JULY 9

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JULY 10

Lunch & Learn at Hotchkiss Library of Sharon: Introduction to Qigong
Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org
12:30 p.m., join Cris Caivano for a workshop about the widely practiced ancient mindful movement practice originating in China.

Company

The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Route 308, Rhinebeck, N.Y. July 10 through July 26

Rhinebeck Theatre Society presents Stephen Sondheim’s Tony Award-winning musical “Company.” The production follows bachelor Robert as he navigates friendship, love and marriage with the help of those around him. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

PLACE | MEANT Opening Reception

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y.
6 to 8 p.m. Millbrook Arts Project will celebrate the opening of “PLACE | MEANT,” a group exhibition curated by Sharon Bates featuring collage-based work by Laura Cannamela, Monica Church, Elisa Lendvay, Susan Newmark and Barbara Todd. Presented in conjunction with “Making Meaning: A Collage Symposium” at the Vassar Institute for the Liberal Arts, the exhibition explores themes of place, memory and materiality. The exhibition runs through Aug. 22. A free artist conversation with Cannamela, Church, Lendvay and Newmark will take place at 4 p.m., and a hands-on collage workshop, “Collage Your Place,” is scheduled for July 25 at 2 p.m. Visit millbrooklibrary.org for information.

“Rebel Town The Musical”

Kathleen E. McDermott Auditorium, Monument Mountain Regional High School, Great Barrington, Mass.
“Rebel Town The Musical,” a new original American musical developed in the Berkshires, returns for America 250 with performances July 10–19. Set in colonial Boston in 1773, the production follows ordinary citizens swept into the events surrounding the Boston Tea Party through the eyes of apprentice Peter Slater and historical figures including Samuel Adams, John Hancock, Paul Revere and Mercy Otis Warren. Created by Berkshire native John Alan Segalla, the musical features 27 original songs and a Berkshire cast and creative team. For tickets and information visit Rebel-TownTheMusical.com.

JULY 11

Opening: The Grass Has So Little to Do
James Barron Art, 215 South Kent Road, South Kent, Conn.
Opening reception 4 to 6 p.m. for an exhibition that brings together 28 artists around the theme of attentive looking at the natural world. Through painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, photography, text, ceramics and even scent, the works invite viewers to slow down and notice the quiet beauty and complexity of the landscape around us. Curated by Deborah Goodman Davis.

sinonó: como sombra (like a shadow)
Gridley Chapel, 4 Old Route 22, Amenia, N.Y.
Gridley Chapel welcomes sinonó, the season’s first musical act, with doors at 7 p.m. and showtime at 7:30 p.m. Explosive and wistful, sinonó draws on Latin American folk, free improvisation and chamber music to create a space of “middle-of-the-night music.” RSVP at wasaicproject.org

Paint By Number Mural
Five Points Center for the Visual Arts, 33 Main St., Torrington, Conn.
Five Points Arts will be installing a “Paint by Number” public arts mural celebrating America’s 250th anniversary in Torrington’s Franklin Plaza on Saturday, July 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Painting this 6 ft x 20 ft mural will bring people of all ages and levels of skill together to honor our country’s history through art making.

Opening Reception: The Space Between Words
Mad Rose Gallery, 3 Main St., Millerton, N.Y.
Paintings by Israeli-born artist Talya Baharai who has discovered her raw, artistic voice using abstract narratives to express what language does not capture. On view through Aug. 30.

Community Puzzle Swap Day with Whistle Pig Books
Whistle Pig Books, 62 Main St., North Canaan, Conn.
Bring a gently used puzzle and exchange it for another, or simply take one! Children’s puzzles and all sizes and difficulty levels are welcome. Free admission, open to the public, and no registration required. Please label if missing pieces. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Learn more at whistlepigbooks.com.

Giant Tag Sale
Center on Main, 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. July 11 and 12

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Friends of the David M. Hunt Library will its annual Giant Tag Sale, featuring a wide variety of donated items. Proceeds benefit the library. Donations of quality items, excluding clothing, books and electronics, will be accepted at the Center on Main from noon to 5 p.m. July 10 and 11.

Garden Wellness: Acupressure for More Energy and Less Stress with Cris Caivano
Innisfree Garden, 362 Tyrel Road, Millbrook, N.Y.
10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Advance registration strongly suggested at innisfreegarden.org

Bada Swing!
Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y. 7:30 p.m. After acclaimed

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

performances at the New York Comedy Festival and Joe’s Pub, “Bada Swing!” comes to Stissing Center for an evening of retro-inspired comedy, live music and cabaret-style entertainment. Written and performed by Josh Nasser and Michelle Chan Bennett and directed by Emily Olcott, the show imagines the reunion of Bobby Bingus and Tommy Linguini, two eccentric 1960s crooners attempting a comeback concert that quickly veers off the rails. Blending lounge music, unconventional storytelling and sharp humor, the performance explores fading fame, old rivalries and the challenges of staying in tune with a changing world. Tickets at thestissingcenter.org

Town-Wide Flea Market
Eddie Collins Park, Millerton, N.Y.
10 a.m. to 3 p.m., re-home your treasures. Sponsored by Climate Smart Millerton. Contact Lisa Cope at Millerton Village Hall tel: 518-789-4489. Sign up by June 30 to be on the map or at Eddie Collins Park.

Small Wonders: Regional Fine Arts and Crafts
Spencertown Academy Arts Center, 790 State Route 203, Spencertown, N.Y. July 11 through Aug. 9

Opening reception July 11 from 3 to 5 p.m. Featuring works by 66 regional artists in a wide range of media, all measuring 12 inches or less in any dimension. More than 120 paintings, photography, fiber art, printmaking, works on paper, ceramics and sculpture will be on display and available for purchase, with a portion of proceeds benefiting the Academy. For information, visit spencertownacademy.org

JULY 12

Sunday Super Show: The Deslondes, The Ulsterados & The Champagne Poneys
Chaseholm Farm, 115 Chase Road, Pine Plains, N.Y.
Three bands beginning at 3 p.m. with food from Harana Market and the farmstore for picnic treats. Tickets at chaseholmfarm.com/events

JULY 14

How the French Saved America, with Author Tom Shachtman
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
As part of Salisbury Commemorates 250, the Salisbury Association Historical Society presents author Tom Shachtman discussing his book, “How the French Saved America.” Held on Bastille Day, the talk will explore the crucial role French soldiers, sailors, diplomats and King Louis XVI played in securing American independence. The event takes place from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Registration is required. More information and registration at scovillelibrary.org.

JULY 15

A Lawn Party!
The Millerton Inn, 53 Main St., Millerton, N.Y.
The Millerton Inn celebrates Millerton’s 175th with a lawn party from 5 to 8 p.m. There will be live music, corn hole, drinks and food on the front lawn. Bring your own blankets and chairs. No reservations needed. First come first served.

Opening Reception: “The Swan’s Script II”
Geary Gallery, 14 Main St., Salisbury, Conn.
Geary opens “The Swan’s Script II,” a group exhibition curated by The Sphinx featuring work by Dana Sherwood, Max Razdow and Rachel Cope. The reception runs from 5 to 7 p.m. and includes a 6 p.m. performance by Melora Creager of Rasputina.

Creating Picture Books with Caroline Nastro
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
Aspiring and published writers and illustrators of picture books are invited to a three-part workshop series with Caroline Nastro. Participants will receive expert guidance, practical techniques and

constructive feedback in a supportive environment designed to help develop emotionally resonant and effective stories. The workshops meet Wednesdays, July 15, 22 and 29, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Registration is required. More information and registration at scovillelibrary.org.

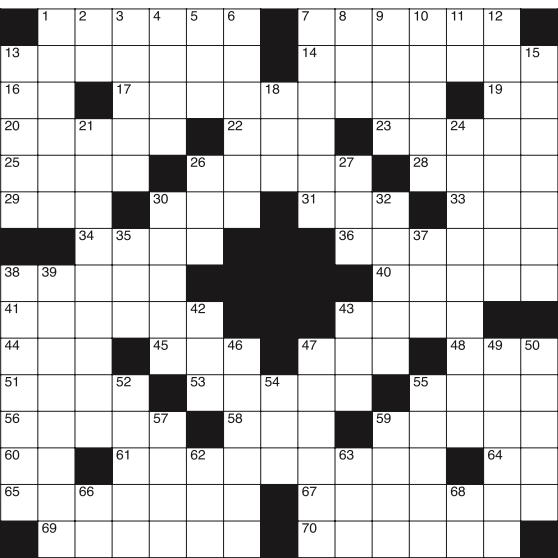
JULY 16

Grow With Us: Pickling
David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org
Join educators from AD-AMAH Farm to turn cucumbers into pickles and learn about the science of lacto-fermentation in this hands-on garden workshop for all ages. 4:30 p.m.

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

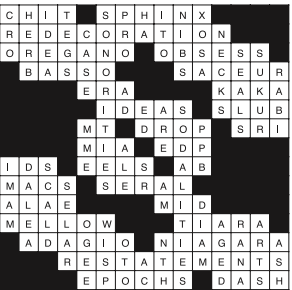
- 1. Mended
- 7. Hymns
- 13. Commercial transport of goods
- 14. Poked holes in the ground
- 16. They precede C
- 17. Branch of knowledge concerned with wealth
- 19. Larry and Curly’s pal
- 20. Injured
- 22. Popular type of dance
- 23. Moon crater
- 25. American state
- 26. Places to lock valuables
- 28. Stalk that supports the capsule
- 29. Keyboard key
- 30. ‘_ death do us part
- 31. A type of cage
- 33. A place to sleep
- 34. Annual music awards show
- 36. Made over
- 38. Hard, stony substance
- 40. Incantations
- 41. Long-legged, wading bird
- 43. Breathe noisily
- 44. Congressman
- 45. Rip off
- 47. Golf score
- 48. Popular pickup truck
- 51. Where infants sleep
- 53. Music term
- 55. Small opening in a surface
- 56. Musical term meaning “very”
- 58. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 59. Treats with powder
- 60. Email subject line feature
- 61. A British lawyer
- 64. Expression of laughter
- 65. Farmer’s calendar
- 67. Seeds used as food
- 69. Eurasian shrubs
- 70. Periods of inactivity



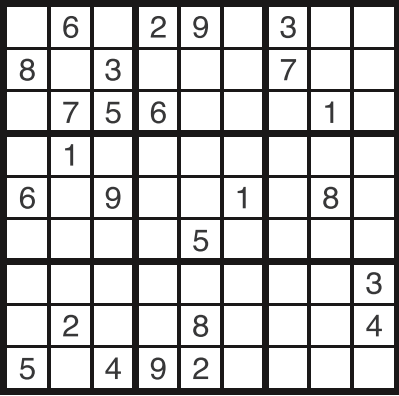
- 10. Emits coherent radiation
- 11. One of the Gospels (abbr.)
- 12. Smallest interval in western music
- 13. Netherlands seat of government
- 15. Gives to charitably
- 18. Lout
- 21. Pastas
- 24. Release from restrictions
- 26. Female sibling
- 27. Title of respect
- 30. Silver coins
- 32. Region in India
- 35. Partner to cheese
- 37. Dark or dusky
- 38. Pacific Northwest tree
- 39. Exaggerate
- 42. Toddler
- 43. Touch lightly
- 46. Fundamentals
- 47. Jeopardies
- 49. Curved structures
- 50. Isolated, flat-topped hills

- 52. Forming the bottom layer
- 54. Reciprocal of sine
- 55. Genus of Old World birds
- 57. New York college
- 59. Cloak
- 62. Kawhi Leonard’s team (abbr.)
- 63. Vietnamese offensive
- 66. “The Great Lakes State”
- 68. “_, myself and I”

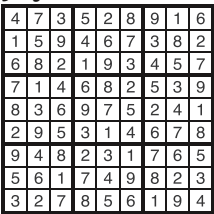
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Our Towns

Sharon bids farewell to two longtime town employees

By Ruth Epstein

SHARON – Stan MacMillan and Jamie Casey, two longtime and beloved municipal employees, were given a rousing send-off Thursday to celebrate their retirements and honor their years of service.

Many Sharon residents, along with others from surrounding towns, came together to salute the two who were recognized for the contributions they gave to the community over their combined sixty-plus years of service.

The party was hosted by Eve LaRoche and her husband, Ryan Kavanaugh. In her brief address, LaRoche spoke of “the immeasurable impact they both have had on all our lives.”

MacMillan was the building inspector and fire marshal for Sharon, as well as fire marshal for several other towns during his long tenure. Casey held a long list of positions, including secretary to the Inland Wetlands Commission, assistant town clerk, secretary to MacMillan, health department sanitarian and, most recently, land use administrator.

In addition, both have been very active volunteers in the Sharon Fire Department and ambulance service.

First Selectman Casey Flanagan told the guests they were there to recognize the legacy the pair was leaving behind and show appreciation and admiration for what they’ve done. “Over the years they have protected the town and its character so that it’s grown in a responsible way.



Stan MacMillan, who has retired as Sharon’s building inspector and fire marshal, receives a General Assembly citation from State Rep. Maria Horn at a party Thursday, July 2.



Jamie Casey, left, who was honored upon her retirement as Sharon’s land use administrator at a party Thursday, shares a light moment with Michelle Hansen of Falls Village.

They have kept the Sharon we all love.”

Flanagan went on to say that the two have given him a lot over the years, “helping shape me into the selectman I am today. I hope to carry those traits and skills throughout my career.”

He noted that while they were all gathered to celebrate their careers, the town is also looking to the future, eager to build on the strong foundation the two created, calling out William Pietrefase, who is replacing MacMillan, and Nikki Blass, who is taking over for Casey.

The occasion brought out nostalgia for some in attendance. Robert Anderson, a contractor, praised them both, speaking of how they treated everyone with fairness and respect. Then he recounted how he’s known MacMillan since they were 5-years-old and how their mothers were good friends.

Judi Gobillot Soule of Kent also had strong memories of her mother, MacMillan’s mother, and several other women who were all best friends while raising their families.

“Going back 65 years, I can still remember those women, including my mother, Eleanor Gobillot, Lil MacMillan, Dolly Paley, Mary Anderson and Betty Freudenberg and all the kids. We had picnics and did a lot together. I remember

the cinnamon candy they made.”

State Rep. Maria Horn, D-Salisbury, presented them both with citations from the General Assembly and Selectman Lynn Kearcher read two comments of appreciation for them from artist Jasper Johns.

In his comments, MacMillan thanked the townspeople for their support and noted all the good people he’s met over the years. Casey paid tribute to all her family and ended with “I love this town.”

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