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



Royal Flush team members race to defend their title on July 19 during the annual Bed Race in North Canaan.

Royal Flush defends title in North Canaan Bed Race

By Madi Long

NORTH CANAAN — Spectators lined Main Street on Sunday, July 19, as the annual Bed Race returned with three teams competing for bragging rights and a tiny plastic trophy.

The field featured one of the event's most recognizable competitors: The Royal Flush, a team from Perotti & Sons, a local plumbing business, which races a toilet mounted on a wheeled cart that has become the event's signature entry. The company also fielded a

second racer — a chair mounted on a cart that was still being assembled moments before the starting signal. Several runners pulled double duty to keep both teams in the competition. The Canaan Fire Company

See BED RACE, Page A10

Kent walkathon raises more than \$3,000 for Luke Arno

By Allison Gollenberg

KENT — Dozens gathered at Kent Commons Park on Saturday, July 18, for a walkathon to support the recovery of Kent native Luke Arno, who suffered a traumatic brain injury last year after being involved in a motor vehicle accident. About 60 people participated in the event for Arno, 23, who remains in a minimally conscious state.

"This is incredible," Arno's older sister, Brandi Alpizar, said in a speech to the group. "I literally don't have the words to describe what I feel."

More than \$3,000 was raised, said event organizer Katy Branch, with all proceeds going to Arno and his family. The money will cover the cost of a custom wheelchair and fund speech, occupational and physical therapies, Alpizar said.

Branch, a nursing student who is engaged to a friend of Arno's, rallied other CT State Northwestern nursing students to organize the

See WALKATHON, Page A10



More than 60 people turned out for the walkathon July 18 to support Kent-native Luke Arno, who suffered a traumatic brain injury last year. Funds will support his recovery.

Grand jury indicts Cole Bushnell on murder, evidence tampering charges

By Christian Murray

PITTSFIELD, MASS. — An Ashley Falls man whose arrest drew attention on both sides of the Massachusetts-Connecticut border has been indicted on charges of murder and evidence tampering in con-

nection with the June 1 killing of Michael A. Moore, a former Falls Village resident.

A Berkshire County grand jury indicted Cole Bushnell, 41, on Thursday, July 16 on charges of murder and evidence tampering in the death of Moore, 40, of



PHOTO BY MADI LONG

Carnival lights brightened the night sky and the day was filled with family fun as organizers and volunteers rescheduled the Summer Nights of Canaan Carnival to Sunday, July 19, after Saturday's storm forced a last-minute cancellation.

North Canaan saves Summer Nights Carnival after Saturday storm

By Ruth Epstein

NORTH CANAAN — A quick turnaround by organizers and volunteers kept Summer Nights of Canaan alive Sunday, July 19, as residents turned out in force for a rescheduled celebration featuring carnival rides, longtime traditions and community favorites.

Heavy rain washed out the original Saturday festivities, but organizers quickly shifted most of the schedule to Sunday, salvaging the carnival, the annual chicken barbecue, bed races and an abbreviated firemen's parade.

Down at Bunny McGuire Park,

the carnival was in full swing. Fun-seekers of all ages twirled around on rides or floated up high on the Ferris wheel. Among them was Michael Kahler, who at 92, insisted he wanted to go for a spin on something. Jason at the Dizzy Dragon welcomed him and his daughter Sharon, and even helped him get in and out of the ride.

When done, Kahler, displaying a wide grin, gave a thumbs-up when asked what he thought of the experience.

"It was a little scary," said Sharon Kahler after disembarking.

See SUMMER NIGHTS, Page A9

Volunteers reopen trails after July 4 storm damage

By Alec Linden

SALISBURY — Strong storms on July 4 blocked roads for days and left nearly the entire town without power, but they also took a less visible toll on the many miles of trails that snake through Salisbury's woodlands, where volunteer crews continue to work to reopen paths blocked by debris.

By the end of the third week of

July, trails that had been essentially impassable since the storms began to resemble their former selves thanks to the hard work of trail enthusiasts who lent a hand sawing apart tree trunks or pulling away branches.

John Landon, co-chair of the Salisbury Association Land Trust, a nonprofit that maintains walking trails on its protected lands across town, and Jim Liptack, who oversees maintenance of the Connecticut Section of the Appalachian Trail, both reported major recovery milestones last week.

Volunteers tackle Dark Hollow

Landon said the Salisbury Association focused its initial cleanup efforts on the Dark Hollow Preserve, where nine volunteers spent Thursday, July 16, clearing storm damage.

"There was a tremendous

See COLE BUSHNELL, Page A10

See TRAILS, Page A10



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The Lakeville Journal

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Saturday, August 8, 2026

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More information on page A8



Saluting Nonprofits
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Our Towns

Jane Lloyd Fund Clambake returns July 25 in Salisbury, marking 19th year

By Phoebe Tobin

SALISBURY — The 19th annual Jane Lloyd Clambake will return to SWSA’s Satre Hill in Salisbury on July 25, bringing together volunteers, musicians and diners to raise money for a fund that has provided \$1.3 million in assistance to families throughout the Region One area.

The fundraiser supports the Jane Lloyd Fund, which was created after the death of Lakeville and Salisbury native Jane Lloyd in 2005 and continues to help local residents facing financial hardship. Supported and administered through the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, the fund has assisted hundreds of families over nearly two decades.

At 2:30 p.m., volunteers will light a fire inside a pit of rocks and wood. The fire will burn for almost an hour until the stones beneath absorb the heat and glow red. The crew will then pile on seaweed, followed by corn husks, clams, lobsters and corn before covering everything with a tarp to steam the meal.

“It’s really fun,” said Donna Stoetzner, who co-chairs the event with Tanya Tedder. And the guests aren’t just

spectators. “They can actually partake in putting the seaweed on, the corn husks on.”

That sense of participation reflects the spirit of the event. A core group organizes the clambake alongside what Stoetzner calls the regulars — volunteers who come “year after year after year” to serve beer, cook burgers, plate food and “step up and ask if there’s anything that they can do to help.”

Stoetzner’s own family spends the morning at the firehouse washing clams sourced that same day from family friends in Massachusetts. This year’s music, provided by Elliot Osborne and friends, is what Stoetzner calls a “loosey goosey organic music circle.” Whoever is around and wants to play simply joins in.

The fund itself grew out of a similar sense of community.

Stoetzner’s sister, Jane Lloyd, owned a gardening business. When she became ill with cancer, she had no insurance or employer to help cover mounting medical bills and everyday living expenses. In response, Salisbury Bank and Trust, now known as NBT Bank, opened



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Jane Lloyd Fund will host its annual clambake July 25, marking its 19th year.

an account in her name, and community members donated money to help pay not only her medical bills but also her mortgage and car payment.

“The community just stepped up,” Stoetzner said.

After Lloyd died, her family decided to continue that support for others. Today, applicants are typically referred through local social service agencies, which present their stories anonymously to the fund’s advisory board. Each year, the board allocates assistance to roughly 15 to 20

people, with some recipients receiving help for multiple years.

“We just automatically say yes,” Stoetzner said. “We’ve never turned anyone away.”

The clambake typically sells about 350 meal tickets, but attendance usually reaches 400 to 500. The event has become enough of a tradition that some families schedule reunions around it.

Beyond the clambake, the fund also holds an annual dance and appeal, and area schools frequently organize fundraisers on its behalf, donating proceeds without being asked. Such events include the annual Hotchkiss School Polar Plunge.

Stoetzner, who also works as an advancement associate and events coordinator at Indian Mountain School, said the fund would like to expand beyond the Region One area but is limited by the size of its volunteer operation and available resources.

For now, it remains focused on the community where it began.

Clambake meal tickets are available through the Jane Lloyd Fund website, but anyone is welcome to stop by for a burger, a beer or the music. Tickets cost \$70.



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Smoke from Canadian wildfires drifted into the Northeast on Tuesday, July 14, darkening skies and spiking air quality index levels.

Wildfire smoke may not be gone for good

By Alec Linden

The worst of last week’s wildfire smoke cleared by the late weekend, though meteorologists say residents shouldn’t assume it’s gone for good as shifting weather patterns could carry smoke back into the region as powerful wildfires continue to burn in Canada and the northern Great Lakes region.

Air Quality Index readings across much of the state consistently reached unhealthy to very unhealthy levels between Tuesday and Saturday, with the worst conditions affecting southern parts of the state.

According to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, air quality across the state on Sunday returned to “Good to Moderate” levels, meaning prolonged outdoor exertion was safe for all but especially sensitive individuals.

Residents should enjoy the break from the haze, Bethel-based meteorologist Jack Drake said, but he cautioned that smoke could return if shifting winds carry it back into the region while the wildfires continue to burn.

“The position of these fires is a little unfortunate,” he said, “since a prevailing wind direction [for the region] is west-northwest.”

Because of the jet stream, a high-altitude ribbon of wind that steers weather systems across North America, smoke from summer fires in the Upper Midwest and western Ontario can be carried into the Mid-Atlantic and New England.

“It’s kind of right upstream,” he said.

Despite recent rain in Ontario and predicted storms later in the week, the Canadian Broadcast Company reported on Sunday that 139 fires, 66 of which are uncon-

trolled, were burning across the province. Drake said that due to the remote location of the blazes and their strength, New Englanders should not be surprised to see more smoke pass through the region in the coming weeks.

A cold front responsible for thunderstorms across New England on Saturday – the severe potential of which was actually reduced by the presence of wildfire smoke – was responsible for Sunday’s clear air, Drake explained – “it actually kicked all the smoke out to sea.”

Some wildfire smoke that passes over the Northeastern U.S. is carried “aloft,” or high overhead in the atmosphere, and only causes a high haze that makes for pretty sunsets but little on the ground impacts, Drake said.

Dominant high pressure last week, which would have caused otherwise clear weather, caused air to “sink” as it traveled southeast with the prevailing winds, he explained, bringing the smoke down to ground level and causing the skyrocketing AQI levels that made eyes itch and throats sore.

“If we get a similar setup,” he said, “we could see some smoke come back in.”

Drake recommended that residents should stay tuned into local and national weather forecasts as smoke remains a risk, since it’s difficult to model further than 48 hours in the future – “Smoke can be difficult.”

Drake said smoke forecasting has really only been a focus of his near-ten year career in weather since an event in 2023 brought thick smoke to much of the Northeast – “That was really the first week where I was like, this is the main weather story.”

“Definitely for the past three years it has been on the mind.”

No Huck left behind

Lakeville resident to pedal miles in Pan-Mass Challenge to honor late father

By Aly Morrissey

SALISBURY — Lakeville resident Rachel Marshall is preparing to ride across Massachusetts in the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC), an annual bike-a-thon that brings together more than 6,000 riders. But Marshall isn’t clipping in for the athletic pursuit or the accolades. She is riding for the second year to honor her late father, Jon Siegel, who died in February after a battle with glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer.

“It’s really about the experience and being there for each other, showing up, philanthropy and the connections along the way,” Marshall said of the race, which has grown over the past 50 years into one of the most successful athletic fundraisers.

Taking place Aug. 1 and 2, the PMC will begin unofficially in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, for riders who want to go the extra mile. The tradition of extending the race’s starting point began years ago with Siegel and his team of riders, who call themselves Team Huckleberry — or the Hucks for short. With multiple routes and starting points, the race ultimately ends on Cape Cod.

For decades, Marshall volunteered at the PMC, supporting her father and his team, making posters and welcoming riders at the finish line. Friends and family would ask whether she might ride herself someday.

“When Dad got diagnosed, I thought, ‘Well, I have to ride. I have to.’”

After Siegel’s diagnosis, the father-daughter duo — along with the Hucks — started and finished the race together, taking an iconic post-race photo with each lifting their bikes above their heads.

“Before, it was just something that I was proud of



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Lakeville resident Rachel Marshall will ride in the Pan-Mass Challenge Aug. 1 and 2 to honor her late father, Jon Siegel, who died from glioblastoma in February.

my dad for doing,” Marshall said, describing her father as a positive and selfless person. “He was doing something that was part of his identity, part of who he was, and being in service to others.”

Marshall said the Hucks are more than a team. They’re a family, and they have supported her through the loss of her father. She recently biked to his grave with team member Ellen, whom she calls her “Huck mom.” When Marshall needed to buy and fit her first real road bike after Siegel’s diagnosis, members of the Hucks went with her.

“I had a village,” she said. Last year, Marshall raised just over \$19,000. Ahead of the 2026 race, she has raised more than \$23,000 toward a goal of \$25,000. The PMC donates 100% of every rider-raised dollar to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and has raised more than \$1 billion to date.

Marshall said the camaraderie and atmosphere surrounding the ride are uplifting.

“If you ever feel like you’re giving up on the world, go to a Pan-Mass event,” she smiled.

There’s a saying that the Huckleberry team lives by: “No Huck left behind.”

ful to be there for him after the care he had given her over the years.

When Marshall struggled with addiction, it was her father who discovered Mountainside Treatment Center in North Canaan, where she eventually found a place to rebuild her life.

“I wouldn’t be where I am without my dad’s engagement, involvement and understanding of this disease,” she said.

After leaving Mountainside as a patient, Marshall later returned as an employee, taking on increasing responsibilities throughout her tenure.

She is now taking her next leap, starting her own business to help people navigate addiction and mental health challenges.

“I want people to understand that they can love themselves, and that life can be hard, but it doesn’t have to be a challenge to walk through it every day.”

Donations for Team Huckleberry can be made at <http://profile.pmc.org/rs0242>

SAT., AUG. 1 | 7:00 PM

“Let’s Dance!”

With Swingtime Big Band

Music Mountain’s 20-piece “House Band”

Performs America’s Favorite Dance Hits

Bobbie Ruth and Zach Alexander, Vocals

Music Mountain Summer Festival

SUN., AUG. 2 | 3:00 PM

Erinys Quartet

With Oskar Espina Ruiz, Clarinet

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Premiere of FUENTES Clarinet Quintet

FUENTES Pre-Concert Talk at 2:00 PM

Tickets \$50-65 | \$30 for Student / Teacher / Veteran / 19-40 y.o.

Free Under 19 y.o.

(860) 824-7126 and musicmountain.org

Our Towns

Food truck ban, bus restriction among six ordinances before Kent voters

By Alec Linden

KENT — Residents will vote on six proposed ordinances at a town meeting on Friday, July 24, following a public hearing on July 10 where a small group of residents commented on proposals ranging from a food truck ban to restrictions on commercial buses using South Kent Road.

Food truck proposal draws most discussion

The proposal that generated the most public comment would prohibit the regular commercial operation of food trucks anywhere in town.

The Board of Selectmen and Planning and Zoning Commission have debated the issue for years, but neither board previously took formal action. The current proposal grew out of a request earlier this year from local crepe maker Grégoire Pye, who sought permission to establish a semi-permanent location for his business, Crepe Royal.

The request drew opposition from restaurant and business owners, who argued that allowing food trucks would create an unfair advantage over brick-and-mortar businesses that pay higher taxes, comply with additional regulations and have greater overhead costs.



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

A proposed ban on food trucks across Kent sparked the most debate of the six ordinances under review during a public hearing on Friday, July 10.

If voters approve the ordinance, commercial food trucks will be banned, with the exception of one-off town events or private parties.

During the hearing, resident Matt Starr urged the selectmen to reject the proposal.

“I think you’re overstepping,” he said. “You’re taking away a small business opportunity.”

Other residents who opposed the ban said they would welcome additional dining options in town, particularly quick and affordable lunch choices.

Supporters of the ban argued that food trucks would negatively affect existing businesses.

Anne McAndrew, a longtime Kent business owner, said she supports the ordinance.

“I think they hurt the local economy,” she said, adding that she is also concerned about parking and litter.

Donna Hayes, the town’s former land use administrator, described the proposal as the culmination of years of discussions between the Board of Selectmen and Planning and Zoning.

Five other proposed ordinances up for vote

In addition to the food truck proposal, voters will

decide five other ordinance proposals at the July 24 town meeting.

One would amend the town’s Inland Wetlands Commission ordinance to allow municipal employees to serve on the commission. State law generally prohibits municipal employees from serving unless a town adopts an ordinance allowing it.

Inland Wetlands Commission Chair Lynn Werner said the change would expand opportunities for residents to volunteer in protecting the town’s natural resources.

Two proposals were first introduced by the Board of Selectmen last year. One would prohibit commercial buses from using South Kent Road. The ordinance, first pursued jointly by Kent and New Milford after residents complained about bus traffic, has been revised to exempt school-related vehicles.

Another would expand the town’s existing ordinance prohibiting snow from being deposited on roadways by adding grass clippings, leaves and brush to the list of prohibited materials.

The remaining proposals would align the town’s veterans property tax exemption with state law by extending benefits to veterans with service-connected disabilities and place two small cemeteries under the management of the Cemetery Committee.

Residents will vote on the proposed ordinances at the town meeting beginning at 7 p.m. Friday, July 24, at Town Hall.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The produce stand opened July 16 and library officials invite people to drop off or pick up fresh goods.

Hunt Library opens community produce stand

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Visitors to the David M. Hunt Library can now pick up or drop off fresh produce at a stand near the library entrance.

Library director Meg Sher said the stand opened for business Thursday, July 16.

John Holland, a library board member and carpenter, built the stand, which is being run as a collaboration with the Center on Main.

Sher said anyone can

drop off or pick up produce. It is not necessary to drop something off in order to take something home. The stand is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

So far, the stand is stocked with squash, zucchini and kale from the garden between the library and the Lee H. Kellogg School and from Adamah Farm.

“We’re excited,” said Sher. “Our neighbors can share their abundance with the whole community.”

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Local Matters

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The Lakeville Journal - The Millerton News

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

The Board of Directors of The David M. Hunt Library and School Association of Falls Village, CT invites the public to attend its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, July 28 at 5:30p.m. at the Library, 63 Main Street, Falls Village, CT 06031.

07-23-26

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF KENT

The first installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property, Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Supplemental tax for the Grand List of 2025 is due and payable July 1, 2026. The first installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property, Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Supplemental tax for the Grand List of 2025 will become delinquent on Tuesday, August 4, 2026. As soon as the tax becomes delinquent, it shall be subject to interest at the rate of 1.5% per month from July 1, 2026 until the same is paid. Bills may be viewed and paid online by going to the Tax Collector’s page on the Town of Kent website at www.townofkentct.gov. The Tax Collector’s office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. There is a red drop box next to the front door of the Town Hall for payments. Payments are also welcome through the mail at P. O. Box 311, Kent, Connecticut 06757.

Deborah Devaux CCMC Tax Collector 06-25-26 07-02-26 07-23-26

Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following actions were taken by the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on July 13, 2026:

Approved - Application IWWC-26-27 by owner Appalachian Mountain Club (Joe Roman) to construct two 10x16 platforms out of pressure treated lumber for camping to be set on smaller 12" cement bases. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 22, lot 29 and is known as 99 MT Washington Road, Salisbury, CT, 06068.

Approved - Application IWWC-26-26 by Sharon Lawn & Landscape (Matt Hosier) to remove cattails along lake side shoreline and plant a buffer garden. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 43, lot 23 and is known as 158 Millerton Road, Lakeville, CT 06039. The owners of the property are Benjamin & Denise Zalman.

Approved - Application IWWC-26-15 by Cory Murphy for stump removal and plantings associated with new house construction. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 08, lot 21 and is known as 80 Brinton Hill Road, Lakeville, CT 06039.

The owners of the property are Cory & Meredith Murphy.

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

Town of Salisbury Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission Sally Spillane Secretary 07-23-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF MARCIA LEE CHESLER Late of New York (26-00282)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated June 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: Peter Chesler c/o Kevin F Nelligan The Law Offices of Kevin F. Nelligan, LLC 194 Ashley Fls Rd PO Box 776 Canaan, CT 06018

Jordan Bergs Clerk 07-23-26

TAX COLLECTOR'S NOTICE

TOWN OF CANAAN Pursuant to Sec. 12-145 of the Connecticut statutes, the undersigned Tax Col-

lector of the Town of Canaan gives notice that she will be ready to receive Motor Vehicle taxes and the first installment of Real Estate & Personal Property taxes due July 1, 2026 at the Tax Collector's office in the Canaan Town Hall, 108 Main St, Falls Village, CT on Monday's 9am - 12pm. & Thursdays 8am-11am.

Payments must be received or postmarked by August 3, 2026 to avoid interest.

All taxes remaining unpaid after August 3, 2026 will be charged interest from July 1, 2026 at the rate of 1.5% for each month elapsing from the due date of the delinquent tax to the date of payment, with a minimum interest charge of \$2.00. Sec. 12-146

Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the taxpayer of his/her responsibility for the payment of taxes or delinquent charges. Sec. 12-130

Rebecca M Juchert-Derungs, Tax Collector, CCMC 06-25-26 07-02-26 07-23-26

Tax Collector Town of Cornwall

The first installment of real estate, personal property as well as motor vehicle taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2025 is due July 1, 2026.

Payments must be postmarked by August 3, 2026 to avoid interest. Any tax bills not paid by August 3, 2026 will be considered delinquent. and interest

will be charged at the rate of 1 1/2 % per month and fraction thereof (including July). This means that even if you pay on August 4th , you will be charged for two months interest. ** No additional bills will be mailed for second installments. Use the coupon provided in the July.

CHANGE IN OFFICE HOURS: Taxes may be paid at the Tax Office on Mondays from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and Wednesdays from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, or sent by mail, addressed to: Cornwall Tax Collector, P.O. Box 97, Cornwall, CT 06753.

The easiest, most convenient, most economical and most reliable way to pay your taxes is by electronic check for a fee of \$1.95. You may also pay your taxes online with a credit, debit card as well for a fee. Visit cornwallct.org/governments/townoffices.

Rebecca Juchert-Derungs, CCMC Tax Collector 06-25-26 07-23-26

TAX COLLECTOR TOWN OF SALISBURY CT LEGAL NOTICE

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

October 1, 2026, January 1, 2027, April 1, 2027. Motor Vehicle tax shall be paid in one installment due: July 1, 2026. Payments must be received or postmarked by August 3, 2026. If said Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicle taxes are not paid on or before August 3, 2026 interest at the rate of 1.5% (18% annually) will apply. The minimum interest charge is \$2.00. Taxes can be paid by mail addressed to: Tax Collector, PO Box 338, Salisbury CT 06068. WPCA Sewer use fees for the year July 1, 2026 are also due and payable by August 3, 2026. Tax office hours are Monday and Wednesday 9am-4pm and Friday 9am—3pm. There is a drop box in the vestibule of the Town Hall open 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday and a 24 hour drop box on the Factory Street back side of the Town Hall. Please check salisburyct.us for additional credit card payment information. FAILURE TO RECEIVE A BILL DOES NOT INVALIDATE THE TAX OR THE INTEREST. Please contact the Tax Collector's Office 860 435-5189 or taxcollector@salisburyct.us if you do not receive a bill or have questions. Dated this 3th day of June 2026.

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

OBITUARIES

Louise R. Black

MILLERTON — Louise R. Black, 86, born July 16, 1939, in Queens, New York, died on July 15, 2026, with her partner of 26 years, Mary Howard, by her side. She is also survived by her nephews David Black and Jason Black, and his wife, Kerri; and niece Tiffany Black and her husband, Shlomo Toledano.

After graduating from the University of North Carolina Women's College and earning two master's degrees, Louise taught physical education for 35 years at Scarsdale (NY) High School, chairing the department and serving as the first woman Athletic Director. An accomplished fencer, tennis player, and swimmer, Louise's enduring fondness for sports included a love of the Brooklyn Dodgers, though she never quite recovered from their move to the West Coast.

Louise's artistic talents came through in her knitting, her painting, and her gardens. A master knitter, for many years she and Mary hosted a weekly knitting group at their home. She was recognized for her Japanese watercolors and landscapes; her passion for flowers was expressed in the abundant roses bordering her property. An avid traveler, she also

found great joy spending summers at her family camp on an island in the Hudson River. Cars and jazz were perennial fascinations, and Doris Day was a favorite.

Louise dedicated much of her life to community service, first as an enthusiastic volunteer at Habitat for Humanity in Westchester County. Following retirement, she moved to Millerton, New York, and was soon immersed in the local library, developing a finders' guide for the North East Historical Society; and the co-founding of Comida de Vida food pantry at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Amenia, New York.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Food of Life / Comida de Vida Food Pantry St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 40 Leedsville Road, Amenia, NY 12501 (845) 373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com or Habitat for Humanity: <https://www.habitat.org/support>

A celebration of Louise's life will take place on Black-Thursdays, July 30, 2026 from 2pm to 4pm at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546. To send an online condolence to the family, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com



Paul Chester Rooney Jr.

SHARON — Paul Chester Rooney Jr. of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and Sharon, Connecticut died peacefully in Ft. Lauderdale on June 13 with family by his side. Born to Mary Katherine Brennan and Paul Rooney on Oct. 23, 1943, in Evanston, Illinois, he grew up in the US and London.

Paul graduated from The Oratory School, Reading, England, and Harvard College and Law School. After four years in the Navy, he was honorably discharged as full lieutenant in 1973. He built a 25-year career at global law firm White and Case in Manhattan, becoming a partner and corporate tax department head; he was known internationally for his legal acumen and creativity. He led an active social life in Manhattan, making life-long friends who enjoyed his sharp wit and repartee. Out of the office, he enjoyed playing squash at the Union League and University Clubs, and the city's cultural offerings. A true patriot, Paul was honored to serve, until his death, on the Advisory Board of the Atlantic Legal Foundation, whose advocacy for individual liberty, free enterprise, property rights, sound science, and effective education aligned with his values. Upon retiring in 1998, the firm's managing partner described his essence: "Spending time with Paul is like an Outward Bound adventure--physically and mentally demanding, and ultimately very gratifying."

Paul eventually moved to his weekend Sharon home.

He savored its small-town values, the opportunity to make friends from all walks of life and participate in local organizations. A perpetual student, he developed new interests, including gardening, reading all he could find about plants and trees, memorizing their Botanical Latin names, and hunting for specimens. After much studying and practicing, he became an avid bridge player and amateur chef. An outdoorsman, he played tennis at the Sharon Country Club; shot at nearby Mashomack Preserve; and skied and fly fished locally. He developed and owned golf courses in New York and Maryland in partnership with a friend. He devoured modern books on Greek and Roman history and re-read classics in ancient Latin and Greek. He also learned modern foreign languages and listened to classical music, discovering the varied interpretations and arrangements of different musicians and composers. In 2014 Paul became a Florida resident, spending over half the year there.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Maria Elena; daughter, Isabel Rooney; brother Peter Rooney; sisters, Margaret Rooney and Briahna Kelly; and sister-in-law Isabel La Vaute and her children and grandchildren. He will be remembered as a kindhearted optimistic gentleman. A celebration of his life will be announced later.



SALISBURY — It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Dona Lee (Chilcoat) Alexander, our beloved mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, and friend, on July 9, 2026.

Born on Dec. 20, 1955, in Sharon, Connecticut, Dona lived a life filled with love, kindness, and an unwavering dedication to helping others.

Dona was preceded in death by her father, William Chilcoat, but leaves behind her loving mother, Katherine Chilcoat. Her cherished family includes her daughter, Sarah Olinger Hadoulis and son-in-law, Michael; her granddaughter, Penelope Hadoulis; her sister, Susan Chilcoat Bucceri and brother-in-law, Louis; her brother, Richard Chilcoat and sister-in-law, Stacey; nieces Katherine and Elizabeth Bucceri; and nephews Will, Ben (Lauren), and Graham Chilcoat.

Dona grew up in Lakeville where she graduated from Salisbury Central School (1969), Housatonic Valley Regional High School

(1973), and Gettysburg College (1977) where she earned a degree in English Literature. Her thirst for knowledge and service continued as she became certified in Grief Counseling and Thanatology, completed her Clinical Pastoral Education, received her Florida Certification for Volunteer Management, and was ordained as an Inter-Faith Minister.

Dona's professional life was a testament to her commitment to service. After she and her daughter Sarah returned to Salisbury in 1988, she worked as store manager of Community Lumber & Hardware (now Herringtons) and as a tea blender and sales manager for Harney & Sons Fine Tea before beginning a career that was dedicated to helping others. Her roles included Director of Therapeutic Recreation, Volunteers and

Pastoral Services at Noble Horizons; office administrator for Habitat for Humanity NW CT; Director of Programs at Harvest Food and Outreach in Vero Beach, Florida; and as an in-home senior care aid for Senior Helpers of the Palm Beaches in Florida.

Some people leave behind footprints. Others leave behind a way of seeing the world. Dona was one of those people. She found beauty in the smallest things, especially a quiet walk on the beach with her eyes searching for sea glass, always believing that what the waves returned had a story to tell. She followed her heart wherever it led, never worried about fitting into any else's idea of how life should be lived. She will be remembered for her gentle spirit, her dedication to helping others, her love for her new granddaughter, and her unwavering commitment to making the world a better place. She



believed that acting on our better instincts reminds us, above everything, that we are all humans and that when we act with care and compassion, we can shape a more loving world. She was beautifully unconventional, deeply spiritual, and completely herself. There will never be another quite like her. We hope that wherever she is now, the shore is endless, the sea glass is abundant, and her spirit is as free as ever. She will be deeply missed.

Dona's family wishes to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association, particularly Cyndi, Laurie, and Molly, and to Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County for their compassionate care and support.

In memory of Dona, the family suggests donations be made to the Little Guild in Cornwall, CT or Salisbury Family Services.

A celebration of her life will be held in the fall.

All other services will be private.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Jane Lindsay

NORTH CANAAN — Jane Lindsay passed away suddenly on July 11, 2026, at Danbury Hospital. She was the longtime partner of Dennis Smalley.

Jane was born on Jan. 14, 1953, the daughter of Sally Hart and the late Raymond Hart.

She retired last year from Geer Village, where she entertained residents with her songs, poems, and wit, and when not working, spread her music around town whenever she could.

Jane's creativity was woven into every part of her life, from her love of music to her unmistakable artistic talent. Her unique style was recognizable, and each piece she created had a way of bringing a smile to those who experienced it—a reflection of the joy and imagination she shared so freely.

Jane is survived by her

mother, Sally Hart; her sister, Diana Hart; her nieces, Alison Latulipe and Riley Hart; and several aunts, uncles, and cousins. She is predeceased by her brother, Jonathan Hart.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Aug. 1, at 2:00 p.m. at the North Cornwall Church. A reception will follow at the Parish House, 8 Bolton Hill Rd., Cornwall Village.

Memorial donations may be made to any animal shelter of your choosing.

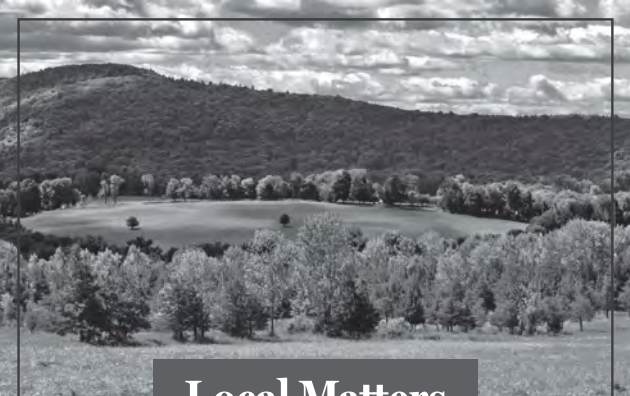
In honor of Jane's vibrant spirit, the family kindly asks that guests leave the dress clothes at home and instead wear tie-dye, something with cats on it, or a fun hat or headband—anything that celebrates the joy and individuality she brought to the world. Informality is a plus! The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.





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Local Matters

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info@congbethdavid.org

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9:15 a.m. Sunday School
"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"
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860-435-9496
Lakevillemethodist@snet.net

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We hope you will join us!

Send obituaries to obituaries@lakevillejournal.com

LET'S HEAR IT...

THIS WEEK

We want our reporting to reflect the questions people in our communities are asking — including the ones that may not be getting enough attention.

What is one local issue or topic you wish you knew more about?

Send your responses to social@lakevillejournal.com by Monday, July 27 at 10 a.m. or comment on Facebook or Instagram. We'll publish a selection in next week's paper.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

What organizations do you volunteer for and why?

"I am the president of North Canaan Ambulance. I've been a member here for 26 years and I became a volunteer to help out my community and give back."
— Matt Devino, North Canaan

"I have been a volunteer firefighter for the town of North Canaan for the last 25 years. I became a firefighter in all honesty because of my brother. I followed in his footsteps because I wanted to be like him, I wanted to do all the things he did and I'm so glad that I did because the pride and the overwhelming feeling of helping someone else in their darkest hour makes you feel really good and to protect the town I've grown up in my entire life. To protect my family, to protect my friends and to protect the town of North Canaan is overwhelming, but I'm so glad that I did it."
— Shanna Pitcher, North Canaan



PHOTO BY CAITLIN HANLON

Daisy me rollin' ...

Stormy weather — for now

I have lived in the Northwest Corner since 1986 and during that time have come to realize how relatively benign our local climate is. For the most part we have been spared the hurricanes that bedevil the eastern coastline, the droughts common in the middle of the country and the floods that imperil so many areas. In my 40 years here there have been only two tornados, one in Cornwall, the other in Great Barrington; most states in the middle of the country have at least two every year. The storm that hit our area this Fourth of July fell just short of being a tornado but did considerable damage especially to our landscape. We should consider this recent storm a harbinger of more frequent and intense severe weather made much worse by climate change greatly exacerbated by the burning of fossil fuels.

For the past 150 years the world has industrialized through the burning of fossil fuels: wood, coal, oil, and gas. Just a small portion of our energy came from clean sources such as moving water, windmills, animals. It wasn't until we realized that global warming was beginning to threaten life on the planet that we understood that we need-

OCCASIONAL OBSERVER

MAC GORDON

ed to start shifting to cleaner energy to survive.

The current administration is in no rush to shift to cleaner fuels. President Trump himself refers to climate change as a "hoax" and calls coal, our dirtiest burning fuel, "clean coal". He has frequently tried to debunk the science of climate change and perhaps he actually believes some of what he has been claiming.

Several months ago the Interior department issued stop work orders on five large wind farms well under construction off the Atlantic coast, citing unexplained "national security" reasons. This June 15th, after several months of delay (with the government losing the case and subsequently appealing), a Massachusetts court threw out the appeal. Work has finally restarted on each of these multi-billion dollar projects including Revolution Wind off New London, Connecticut.

However, in an unprecedented recent case in federal court, the Trump adminis-

tration agreed to pay several companies a total of \$1.8 billion to abandon their leases for not yet developed offshore wind farms. Like many other Trump executive orders this one is being challenged by several groups in a federal lawsuit.

One of the first moves a prospective wind farm developer makes is to apply for clearances from the Federal Aviation Agency who refers the application to the Pentagon to see if the project interferes with any existing radar or nearby military bases, with any needed mitigation usually being minor and routine. But starting last fall reviews of all prospective wind farms slowed and a few months ago came to a halt, again for unspecified "national security" reasons. Now more than 100 planned wind farms in 21 states are indefinitely stalled by the Pentagon's unjustified delay; this represents at least \$47 billion in potential wind power investment. A lawsuit by several environmental organizations awaits judgment.

Nearly half of the projects affected by the freeze are in Texas which now produces

more wind power than any other state. Currently, wind power provides just over 10% of the nation's electricity.

After natural gas and nuclear power, solar power is now the third largest source of electricity in the United States. This May, for the first time, solar supplied more of the nation's electricity than coal, or 12.8%.

Solar is currently the fastest growing power source in the country, accounting for more than half the new power added to the grid this year; and throughout the world solar is the largest new electricity source by far. According to the environmental non-profit Climate Central, U.S. solar power will more than double by 2030. Generally speaking, it is also the least expensive power source.

The unusually violent, destructive storm over the July 4th holiday was made much more severe because of global warming. We need to get our politicians to take climate change seriously. Now.

Architect G. Mackenzie Gordon, A.I.A., lives in Lakeville.

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

Thanks for celebrating 250th with us

Gathering with family and friends, music and hot dogs, sun and swimming; each year the Fourth of July at the Grove celebrates our community as well as the Nation's founding. On behalf of the Salisbury Association I would like to thank all those who made the festivities for

the country's 250th birthday so special: Stacey Dodge and her team at the Grove, the Salisbury Band and their spirited renditions of old and new favorites, the Salisbury Central School eight graders who stepped up at the last minute to sell hot dogs, the boat owners who paraded on

Lake Wononscopomuc with flags flying and Lou Bucceri (aka Hemon Allen) for his rousing delivery of the Declaration of Independence.

While the Salisbury Association had to postpone its evening entertainment, the DJ and laser light show have been rescheduled to the first week-

end in August. Watch our website and social media for details. We are grateful to all the emergency crews that worked so hard to restore power and communications to town and the Academy Building.

Cynthia Walsh
President

The Salisbury Association

Community happens through recreation

Dear Falls Village,
There is a saying here that I have come to love.

"You don't find Falls Village. Falls Village finds you."

The more time I spend here, the more I think it's true. Some families have lived here for generations. Others arrived only recently. Some came from the next town over. Others came from across the world. Different stories. Different histories. Different reasons for staying. Yet somehow, this little corner of Connecticut has gathered us together.

Now the question becomes:

"What kind of community do we choose to build together?"

As the new Chair of the Falls Village Recreation Commission, I wanted to introduce myself, not simply as a committee member, but as another person who

has fallen in love with this extraordinary place.

One of the things that has always inspired me about small towns is that they only truly work when people choose to participate. Not because they have to, but because they care. I've watched neighbours clear fallen trees before anyone asks. I've watched roads reopen after storms because people simply arrive with chainsaws and get to work. It's as if everyone knows their part. I believe that's community.

I think recreation can work the same way. Our Town Farm, our pool, our trails and gathering spaces aren't simply facilities. They're places where community happens. Places where children learn to swim, friends meet on summer afternoons, families gather, visitors discover Falls Village for the first time and neighbours become friends.

And I believe these spaces can become even more.

I'd love to see the Town Farm become something that belongs to us throughout the entire year, not only during pool season. Imagine winter walks, cross-country skiing, community events beneath the new pavilion, seasonal gatherings, opportunities to learn, celebrate and simply spend time together. This is not because bigger is better. Or that we want to become something we're not. It is because a place that's loved should be lived in.

None of this happens because one person has good ideas. It happens because many people decide they want to be part of creating something together. That's why one of my biggest hopes isn't simply improving our facilities, it's growing our community around them.

We're looking for people who have ideas. People who enjoy organising. People who like planting flowers and building things. People to host events. Writers, photographers, historians. People who can teach us to cook and tell us about nature. People who share our love of sports and the outdoors. Or simply people willing to lend a hand every now and then.

If joining the Recreation

Commission isn't for you, that's perfectly okay. Come to a meeting. Share a suggestion. Visit the pool. Use the Town Farm. Tell us what you'd love to see.

This belongs to all of us.

Over the coming months we'll also begin sharing regular updates—celebrating projects, introducing members of our Recreation Commission, highlighting local businesses and organisations, and telling the stories that make Falls Village what it is.

Because a community isn't built only through meetings. It's built through knowing one another. Through recognising one another. Through creating opportunities for people to connect.

Nature teaches us that healthy ecosystems rely on diversity and that everything has its place. Communities are much the same. Whether your family arrived generations ago or whether Falls Village found you only recently, each of us has something valuable to contribute.

I feel incredibly honoured to help steward this next chapter.

I hope you'll help write it with us.

Catherine Wales
Chairperson
Falls Village Recreation Commission

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

Our Towns

Cornwall Rummage Sale raises funds for students, charities

By Mia DiRocco

CORNWALL — Shoppers lined outside the Mohawk Mountain Ski Area lodge on the morning of July 21 for Cornwall's annual Rummage Sale, hosted by the Cornwall Woman's Society.

Every year the ski lodge and village green are filled with clothing, toys, furniture donations and more. For three days, people from far beyond Cornwall come to shop and support the fundraiser.

"There were a lot of moving parts," said Cheryl Thibault, who was the head of this year's rummage sale. "It takes the organization well over one hundred people to keep this thing running." Many regulars noticed that this was an especially busy year for the event.

The proceeds support a variety of causes, including the Cornwall Women's Society Educational Grant, which awards funds to residents who attended Cornwall Consolidated School, as well as donations to local nonprofit organizations in the Salisbury-Lakeville area and the Torrington Community Kitchen.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Volunteers at the historic 2026 Cornwall Woman's Society Rummage Sale sort items Saturday, July 18.

nity Kitchen.

"This year we ended up with 10 kids," Thibault said. "Which is amazing, because the last two years have been slightly slow."

The grant offers money toward future educational expenses, from tuition to school or work supplies. Applications are reviewed by the society's education committee, and each student is interviewed by committee members.

Recent Housatonic graduate and lifelong Cornwall

resident Steven Barber is one of the recipients of this year's award and is pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering at Central Connecticut State University.

"I plan to use this degree in an automotive field, for designing either production or race cars," Barber said. "The grant will help me pay tuition for school to receive my degree."

Fellow recipient Henry Berry is also a recent Housatonic graduate and plans to attend Eastern Connecticut

State University.

"I'm going to use part of it for my tuition, and the rest for all the supplies I'll need."

Organizers recruit both volunteers and paid student helpers known as the gophers, who are made up mostly of middle school students from the Cornwall area.

"I really enjoyed meeting new people from Cornwall, and I also love clothing, so that was a fun part," said Claire Barbosa, a graduate from this year's Cornwall Consolidated eighth grade class, and one of the many students working the sale this summer. "This year is my first year working at the Rummage Sale, and I've really loved it so far."

The students and volunteers spend two weeks prior to the event accepting donations, bringing them to the lodge and setting up the store.

"It gets a little chaotic with stuff coming from everywhere," Barbosa said.

The staff are constantly working to keep tables organized, help out customers, and keep everything running smoothly.

However, the Rummage

Sale gives back in more ways than one.

"It's not just the educational grants," said Thibault. "It's donations to all the various nonprofit organizations that we have here."

The Rummage Sale has

been treasured by the Cornwall community for more than 100 years and continues to not only help declutter kitchens and clean out closets, but also give back to residents and the Northwest Connecticut community.



PHOTO BY MIA DIROCCO

Racks and piles of clothing and accessories take over the ski lodge during the sale.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Children enjoy a hula-hoop contest hosted by the D.M. Hunt Library Friday, July 17.

Hula-Hooping for two at the Hunt Library

By Mia DiRocco

FALLS VILLAGE — The David M. Hunt Library hosted an event that evoked a favorite summer pastime, with a hula-hooping contest for children of all ages on Friday, July 17.

"I can do it longer than you!" exclaimed 6-year-old Bearett as he hula-hooped alongside library event coordinator Anna Pattison, more commonly known as "Miss Anna," at the Hunt Library's Hula-Hoop Competition. Event attendees included Ariel Odell, and her two children Bearett, 6 and Wesson, 3.

"It's a great way for the kids to get some energy out," Odell said. As Falls Village residents, she and her children

enjoy many of the library's programs and events.

The Hunt Library hosts a wide variety of events and programs that are open to both residents and non-residents, often in collaboration with The Center on Main.

For example, on August 6, the library plans to bring Candy Land to life, inviting community members to compete in a larger than life version of the classic board game.

The library also recruited volunteers to help build the Candy Land set on July 21. Crafty community members were invited to put their skills to use.

"It's a gathering of the creative minds," said Pattison. "We're making everything to bring this event to life."



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Dolly Spadaccini in front of the tree planted in her honor 10 years ago when she retired as secretary of the Region 1 special education department.

Former Region One secretary receives long-delayed tree plaque

By Ruth Epstein

FALLS VILLAGE – A tree planted in the courtyard at Housatonic Valley Regional High School to honor longtime Region One secretary Dolly Spadaccini finally received its commemorative plaque last week, 10 years after it was dedicated.

Organizers joked during the July 14 ceremony that they wanted the redbud tree to grow strong and sturdy before installing the plaque. In reality, they admitted, a little procrastination and a few other circumstances contributed to the decade-long delay.

Former colleagues gathered to make the recognition official.

A Housatonic graduate, Spadaccini began working at the school at age 19, spending her first year in the main office before serving the next 48 years as secretary to the Region One special education department. She worked alongside seven special education directors before retiring in 2016.

Much of the informal ceremony was filled with good-natured jokes about how long it had taken to complete the tribute, but Spadaccini said she was deeply appreciative.

"It's an honor to have this tree," she said. "I was pleased to have been at Region One all those years, working with wonderful people."

Kent after-school program returns with higher fees following months of uncertainty

By Alec Linden

KENT – Parents will pay \$35 more per week to enroll their children in the town's after-school program when it resumes in September, following months of uncertainty about its future.

The weekly rate will increase from \$65 to \$100. The town also approved a new \$25 daily rate, up from \$13 last year. Meanwhile, the late fee has been set at \$5 for every five minutes.

Families enrolling more than one child will receive a 10% discount for the second child and a 15% discount for the third or more.

The program, held at Kent Center School, offers after-school enrichment activities for children in kindergarten through eighth grade.

The new 2026–27 pricing package also sets the weekly rate for a hybrid option at \$125. The option includes sessions at the Kent Curiosity Lab, a local nonprofit that provides extracurricular learning opportunities for

schoolchildren.

The fee structure, approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission on July 7, came after months of planning into how to make the program financially sustainable since the Commission nearly removed it from its 2026–2027 budget proposal citing cost.

During the July 7 meeting, Claire Love, a Parks and Recreation Commission member who chairs the After-School Program subcommittee, presented the proposal as community-informed and balanced.

"If we adjust pricing to a level which families feel is fair and reasonable, then we can actually make this a self-sustaining program again," she said.

She explained that the

plan was heavily influenced by a survey that yielded 35 responses from families, including families that currently utilize the program.

"If we adjust pricing to a level which families feel is fair and reasonable, then we can actually make this a self-sustaining program again."

**Claire Love
Parks and Recreation
Commission Member**

survey.

"My honest to god takeaway is that we've been massively underpricing this," Love said. She added

that there will be scholarship opportunities from the Kent Community Fund for low-income families.

Low enrollment and high operating costs caused the Commission to initially remove the after-school program from its fiscal year 2027 spending proposal, but outcry from parents encouraged members to reinstate the funds and program.

Love said the survey indicated more families may enroll next school year, and said that the group will assess the program in December to see if it's breaking even or better. Last school year, fewer than 10 students were enrolled weekly in the program, with an average of about five students attending per day.

"The proof will be in the pudding of who actually signs up," she said.

YOUR
NEWS

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Realtor® at Large

This is year two in my crusade to eradicate Japanese Barberry from our property and I think I am getting a sense of Don Quixote's experience of chasing windmills. The task seems to be endless! Apparently perseverance and knowledge are required. Fortunately the Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District has published a guide to help landowners identify and control non-native invasive plants in their yards. Invasive plants thrive outside their natural range, threatening the health of our native plant and animal communities. To review this guide, please go to: www.conservect.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/invasives-guide-2025_final_web_reduced.pdf



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PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN
The Region One Middle School summer camp wrapped up its fifth summer of activities on Friday, July 17.

Region One summer camp wraps up fifth season

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The Region One Middle School summer camp wrapped up its fifth summer of activities on Friday, July 17 with a stream hike, paddleboarding, tennis, fishing and a trip to Lake Wononscopmuc in Lakeville—with free ice cream.

Barbara Hockstader, one of the organizers, said the camp, called “Summer Mountaineer Experience,” is free and open to all Region One children who are entering grades 5 through 8 in the fall.

The camp offers “social-emotional learning,” she said, with the majority of the activities outside.

The management team includes Jill Pace, Anne MacNeil, Lisa Reel and Rea Tarsi.

The camp has six high school or college age counselors plus two counselors in training, who were prior participants in the camp.

The two-week camp started Monday, July 6. Hockstader said there were 60 children enrolled this year, and on any given day about 55 show up.

The children come by school bus or are dropped off at Housatonic Valley Regional High School for a 9 a.m. start.

On July 17 the children filed into the gym and joined their respective groups. Hockstader made announcements about the day’s activities and then asked the campers to “think of one that surprised you” about the camp experience.

She led off by saying she was surprised how easily she was able to keep her balance on a paddleboard.

Other offerings at the camp include classes in art, 3D printing, and textiles. The campers also play backyard games, and HVRHS facilities manager Jeff Lloyd sets up a slip and slide water course on the field behind the high school.

The campers’ day wraps up at 3 p.m.

Hockstader said the goals for the campers are simple. They are:

Have fun, make new friends, enjoy the outdoors together, try something new, and learn something new about themselves.

The camp is funded by a grant from the Berkshire-Taconic Foundation, state grants, and a private donor, Hockstader said.

Salisbury School provides access to Lake Washinee. Indian Mountain School offers use of its high ropes course and team building program. Ed Thorney leads rock climbing trips at St. John’s Ledge in Kent, and the Grove in Lakeville welcomes the campers for fishing and swimming in the afternoons.

Hockstader said many campers participate for the entire four years they are eligible.

“We have a lot of repeat-ers.”

Outdoor classroom pavilion added to HVRHS Land Lab

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The “land lab” for the Agricultural Science and Technology Education (ASTE) department at Housatonic Valley Regional High School now includes a pavilion that will serve as an outdoor classroom.

Bruce Bennett, chair of the ASTE advisory board, said Monday, July 13, that the 14-by-24-foot red cedar pavilion was purchased from Kloter Farms in Ellington.

The pavilion cost about \$18,000, which was covered by a grant from the Housatonic River Commission.

The grant did not cover the \$3,800 cost of erecting the structure. That expense was paid by the Housatonic Valley FFA chapter, and several students helped assemble the pavilion.

The ASTE program broke ground on the two-acre property on Warren Turnpike, about a half-mile north of the high school, in September 2025. Eversource leases the land for a nominal fee.

The land lab was first proposed to and approved by the Region One Board of Education in 2024. Students began clearing brush from the formerly wooded site on



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN
The new red cedar pavilion for the Agricultural Science and Technology Education Land Lab will serve as an outdoor classroom.

Sept. 22, 2025.

Bennett also recognized financial and in-kind support from the Northwest CT Community Foundation, the 21st Century Fund for HVRHS, Gold Farm, Falls Village Sawmill, M&M Excavating of Sheffield, Laurelbrook Materials, Crane’s Outdoor Power Equipment and the Northwest Conservation District.

During the summer, up to seven students are paid to work one day a week mowing, weeding and performing other maintenance. Bennett

said ASTE department head Dave Moran insisted students be compensated for their work.

Once the garden beds are ready, they will be planted with vegetables selected to fit the curriculum and the school calendar.

“We’ll grow crops that can be harvested before school lets out in June,” Bennett said, citing asparagus, strawberries and kale as examples.

On Wednesday, July 15, HVRHS students were working on fencing around the garden beds to keep deer out.

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Local Matters

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BED RACE

Continued from Page A1

rounded out the field with a bright red utility cart pushed by firefighters and their family members.

Two popular characters from the float parade that preceded the Bed Race, Railroad Ray and Captain Canaan, served as announcers, welcoming spectators to the tongue-in-cheek “250th Annual Bed Race.”

As the teams prepared to race, Jordan Long of The Royal Flush made his intentions clear.

“If we lose, I will be sorely disappointed,” Long said. “The bed race is everything, it’s always been everything. This is for all the marbles.”

The three teams took turns racing along Main Street, each hoping to post the fastest time.

Each team consisted of four runners and one rider and raced approximately 30 meters. Spectators cheered as the makeshift carts sped down the street, occasionally veering off course.

The Royal Flush crossed



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

the finish line in 20.2 seconds to defend its title. The Canaan Fire Company finished second, just 0.15 seconds behind.

“We’ll come back stronger next year,” said Canaan Fire Company team member Tori Dodge after the close race.

The bed race was moved to Main Street this year in an effort to attract more spectators and encourage greater participation in the event.

Now a Summer Nights of Canaan tradition — and be-

fore that, a staple of Railroad Days, a multi-day summer festival dating to the early 1990s — the Bed Race was revived five years ago by Will and Samantha Perotti after the event had been dormant for several years.

“I remember going to them just as a kid before we could participate, when they were held on Railroad Street,” said Perotti. “They were su-

Left, The Well Drillers team sets off on the bed race.

Below, The Canaan Fire Company rallies the crowd.



PHOTO BY MADI LONG

per popular, and the people back then actually had real gurney beds or hospital beds with wheels. It’s more of a cart race now, but a bed race sounds way funnier.”

Even with the evolution of the race, Perotti said its appeal hasn’t changed.

“It’s always impressive to me that people wander out of their houses to watch us act like idiots.”

WALKATHON

Continued from Page A1

event.

“I couldn’t have done it without the classmates who stepped forward and helped,” she said.

In addition to individual support, about 20 local businesses donated raffle items and snacks for the event.

“Everything has been donated,” Branch said. “We haven’t really even had to pay for anything.” Raffle items included everything from wine baskets to stuffed animals.

The walking route circled the park, with participants completing five laps for a total of one mile, although not everyone was there to walk. Some simply came out to donate and show their support.

Branch’s friend and fellow nursing student, Subrina Alvarez, said she’s been amazed by the outpouring from the Kent community. She said it’s important to remember people with traumatic brain injuries are still themselves.

“There’s still a person in there, and they’re alive,” she said. “It’s hard for their family and it’s hard for them.”

Another organizer, Gorybel Soto, said, “I hope people can understand what it’s like to be Luke. It was like the blink of an eye, what happened to him. And we continue with our lives, but his is completely different.”

Even so, Alpizar said her brother has made tremendous strides in the last year.

After Arno’s crash last July — which left him in a coma for months — his sister said he’d sustained the most severe brain injury one can survive. Still, she said, within the first few months of his recovery he was doing things the family was told he never would again.

“We always joked he had nine lives,” Alpizar said. “Now he has 10.”

Alpizar described her brother as “the most giving, helpful person imaginable,” with an old soul and a great sense of humor, which she said he has maintained despite his injuries.

Arno was known for keeping an eye out for motorists in trouble in town, popping hoods, jump-starting cars and fixing problems for everyone he met, she said.

“Someday he’s going to be working on a car again, probably, in his wheelchair,” Alpizar said. “If he can get under a car, he’ll do it.”

As people walked, they shared stories and laughs



PHOTO BY ALLISON GOLLENBERG

about Luke and his sense of humor. Soto took drone video recordings of the event, capturing groups of walkers who waved and shared supportive messages to their friend. Alpizar said Luke recognizes faces and voices and loves having visitors as he recovers at the Hospital for Special Care in New Britain.

Attendees included

friends, family, friends of the family and strangers, too — passersby or people who heard about the event online. Most were from Kent, but some were Branch’s classmates from out of town. All gathered under the pavilion on the foggy, smoky, orange morning — a result of the Canadian wildfires.

Dan Greenbaum, whose

A sign supporting Luke Arno features photos of him taken before his brain injury.

kids went to school with Arno, said he got to know him as “the NAPA guy” as he grew up, noting his affinity for cars. He said Luke was always friendly.

“We want to do everything we can, as everybody says. It’s such a great community in Kent. That’s the way it’s always been,” he said.

“I couldn’t not help, you know?” said Lynn Harrington, a Kent selectman and family friend, who helped coordinate the event.

Alpizar said the number of people who showed up is a testament to Arno’s character. “I jokingly call him the mayor of Kent. Everyone knows the Arnos. You were like his best friend from the moment you met him.”

COLE BUSHNELL

Continued from Page A1

Bushnell, who owned a painting business, was indicted Thursday morning in Berkshire Superior Court, where he entered the courtroom in handcuffs. He showed little visible emotion, kept his eyes on the floor throughout the brief hearing and remained silent. The courtroom was largely empty.

Bushnell pleaded not guilty to both charges.

The indictment alleges that on or about June 1, Bushnell assaulted and beat Moore “by means of a dangerous weapon, to wit: a knife and a sledgehammer,” causing his death.

A second count charges Bushnell with evidence tampering. Prosecutors allege Bushnell attempted to impair evidence “in an official proceeding, by attempting to destroy his cellphone, either by his own actions or by directing another person to do so.”

According to prosecutors, Moore, who also worked as a painting contractor, went to Bushnell’s Ashley Falls property on June 1. Prosecutors allege the two argued over money before Bushnell killed Moore inside a greenhouse on the property.

Moore was killed after suffering blunt-force trauma to the head and lacerations



PHOTO BY MADI LONG

Cole Bushnell appears in Berkshire Superior Court on Thursday after a grand jury indicted him on charges of murder and evidence tampering.

tions to his back, according to prosecutors. His body was allegedly concealed beneath a mattress until Bushnell revealed it to one of his workers inside the greenhouse. The worker then alerted Connecticut State Police at the Troop B barracks in North Canaan.

Bushnell was ordered held without the right to bail pending further proceedings.

During the hearing, prosecutors also sought a no-contact order prohibiting Bushnell from communicating with witnesses in the case, arguing there had been efforts to contact at least one witness. Bushnell’s court-appointed defense attorney, Jeffrey Brown, objected, arguing the court lacked authority

to impose such a condition while Bushnell remained held without bail.

Brown, a private criminal defense attorney and partner at Brown & Brown, declined to comment on the case.

The case has gained widespread attention throughout the Northwest Corner because both men are well known in the region.

Bushnell, who attended North Canaan Elementary School, and Moore, who attended Lee H. Kellogg School in Falls Village, both attended Housatonic Valley Regional High School. The two became friends and remained close into adulthood, working together as painters on homes throughout the region before the alleged killing.

TRAILS

Continued from Page A1

amount of damage to that preserve, as there was in many parts of town,” Landon said.

The preserve, located between Salmon Kill Road and Farnum Road, sustained the most severe impacts of any of the land trust’s protected properties.

Two of Dark Hollow’s three paths are wooded and were damaged by the storm. By the end of the day, volunteers had cleared all but one tree from the 1.3-mile Summit Trail, the longest of the walking paths. The preserve’s other woodland trail remained passable despite scattered obstacles.

While neither trail was officially closed, Landon said the volunteer effort was essential to restoring the Summit Trail to the enjoyable woodland walk residents were accustomed to.

Other Salisbury Association preserves also sustained storm damage, including the Pope Preserve off Route 44 northeast of downtown Salisbury and the Hecht Preserve off Route 112 near Wells Hill Road.

The Salisbury Association Land Trust has scheduled additional volunteer workdays on July 25 and July 31 to continue cleanup at those preserves, with more dates expected to follow.

“It’s a lot of work after a storm like this,” Landon said, encouraging anyone interested to volunteer.

Appalachian Trail reopens after cleanup

After more than a week of sawing, dragging and stacking the fallen trees and branches that blocked 12 miles of the Appalachian Trail, Liptack felt a sense of accomplishment.

“It was just a tangled mess,” he said. He said the most impacted section of the trail was a stretch that runs from about a mile south of Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village to about a mile north of downtown Salisbury.

Liptack, who helps oversee the maintenance of the Connecticut section of the trail for the Appalachian Mountain Club, said he’d seen similar damage from a tornado that touched down

near the high school in 2020, but that “it was a stretch of a quarter, maybe a half mile that was devastated” during that event.

“This was 12 miles of that,” he said.

He reported that a team of 10 volunteers from the Connecticut and Western Massachusetts chapters spent over 130 hours in the woods between Wednesday, July 8, and Friday, July 17.

“We now have the trail cleared, open and ready to be used,” Liptack said on Saturday, but with a slightly altered course — some of the trees were just too large to be removed, he said, so the group built new pathways to go around them.

“I’m talking three to four feet in diameter,” he said, referring to the large trees. “We didn’t have saws that big.”

Two campsites — Limestone Springs and Belter, both in Falls Village — were impacted but have since reopened. The shelter at Limestone Springs remains closed until a dangerous tree above it is removed by a professional crew, which is scheduled to occur within the next several weeks.

Liptack said that he was glad to have the trail back in navigable shape. He said he had heard reports from “lost, confused and bewildered” thru-hikers who were unfortunate enough to be in the wrong part of the trail at the wrong time in the days immediately following the storm.

“They described it as just blind bushwhacking through the thickest jungle — the thickest branches and trees they’d ever seen,” he said. He also had heard from several hikers who happened to be overnighting at one of the area’s campsites on July 4, saying the reports sounded “incredibly terrifying,” but luckily no injuries were reported.

Liptack said he was grateful for the team who volunteered their time to keep the trail safe and intact. “It’s a team effort,” he said. “We’re really proud of the fact that we were able to get it done that quickly because we had so many people who came out day after day.”



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PHOTO BY LUCIA IANDOLO

Karina Powers teaches traditional dances from Mexico in Millbrook.

Karina Powers and the power of tradition

By Lucia Iandolo

Karina Powers began dancing at 4 years old. A professional dancer, singer, performer and Mexican folklore dance professor from Baja California, Mexico, she is the youngest of three sisters who were all involved in the arts. Powers now teaches traditional Mexican dances to adults through her company, Compañía De Danza Folklórica Regional Mexicana, in Millbrook. She said she has a strong passion for the history and art that exist within the dances she teaches, and she hopes to instill that passion in her students. “Many of them have never danced this type of dance,” said Powers. “They’re from Mexico, but they came to the United States at a young age to

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

EDUCATION

No grumbling here: Children’s theater camp returns

By Jack Sheedy

Leslie Elias wants you to understand something about the group she calls Grumbling Gryphons Traveling Children’s Theater: “I like to say that we try not to grumble.” For 46 years, she has used the non-profit to educate and entertain children in the performing arts. Summer after summer, young campers learn about acting, singing, mask-making, costume-making and scenery painting. This year, as in years past, a five-day theater arts camp will culminate in a live performance of one of Elias’ original plays, guaranteed, she hopes, to quell all grumbling. Elias co-founded Grumbling Gryphons in 1980 with Vanessa Roe and Nicholas Jacobs. Mask-maker Robert Flanagan, known for his work with the Muppets and for designing props for the Broadway production of “Oz,” suggested the name Gryphons, a reference to mythological beasts that are part eagle and part lion. Jacobs liked the idea

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

COMMUNITY

Sam Lardner returns to the Northwest Corner for Vecinos

By Natalia Zukerman

On Friday, July 24, musician and educator Sam Lardner and his band, Barcelona, will take the stage at Salisbury Congregational Church for a benefit concert supporting Vecinos Seguros 2, an all-volunteer organization that provides emergency assistance and rapid-response support to immigrant families in Northwest Connecticut affected by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity. Lardner, who attended and later taught at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville before moving to Spain in 1997, still considers the Northwest Corner his home in the United States. “It’s such a special place,” he said. After years as a touring singer-songwriter on the New England folk circuit, fronting a country band in Spain and releasing multiple albums, Lardner eventually stepped away from music as raising four children and paying for their college tuition became his priority. He returned to education full time but never abandoned music entirely, continuing to perform whenever he could. Now, with his children grown, Lardner has returned to the stage with a renewed sense of purpose. Through his Varroomba! project, music has become more than entertainment. It is a fundraising engine, a way to build community and a vehicle for supporting organizations responding to urgent needs. Instead of charging organizations to host concerts, Lardner raises money ahead of time through his community of fans.



PHOTO BY VIRGO MARTINEZ

Sam Lardner and Barcelona will play a benefit for Vecinos Seguros 2 at Salisbury Congregational Church on Friday, July 24

The proceeds cover recording costs, musician salaries and travel, allowing each concert to become a fundraiser for the host organization. “I call the venues and say we’re coming, and we don’t cost any money,” he said. There are three levels of Funding Fans: Wunderfans, who contribute \$50 or more; Virtuosi, who give \$1,000 or more; and Gamechangers, who donate \$3,000 or more. Through this model, Lardner has raised \$27,000. This year’s six-piece ensemble spans three generations and includes Lardner’s son Jackson, along with veteran members of the band and two younger musicians from Spain. Lardner said the concert in Salisbury will be joy-filled. After finding himself overwhelmed by headlines while living overseas, he shifted his focus from writ-

ing topical songs to performing music that offers hope. Lardner said conversations with organizers have shaped the tone of the evening. “We talk through the events with each organizer,” he said. “What do we want to do here? Are we raising awareness? Are we raising funds? Are we doing both? Are we celebrating community? This one is among the most mission-driven because the need is so immediate. Vecinos Seguros 2 was launched earlier this year as federal immigration enforcement intensified across Connecticut. Building on the work of the original Vecinos Seguros network, the organization mobilizes volunteers to accompany immigrant families, provide emergency financial assistance, connect residents with legal resources and strengthen neighborhood support systems.

Leaders say requests for help have grown sharply in recent months as fear of detention has increased. Although the subject is serious, Lardner hopes the evening itself will be joyful. “With music, the afterglow is much longer and more powerful,” he said. “It’s all about these groups and what they’re trying to do.” If the inaugural Varroomba! tour succeeds, Lardner hopes to double its impact next year. “We’re doing 15 causes this summer,” he said. “I’d like to do 30 next summer and just keep growing it.” The concert begins at 7 p.m. Friday, July 24, at Salisbury Congregational Church. Proceeds benefit Vecinos Seguros 2. Tickets are available through Eventbrite at <https://bit.ly/4vvfVYO>. For more information on Varroomba!, visit varroomba.org

MUSIC

Across generations at Litchfield Jazz Festival

By D.H. Callahan

The Litchfield Jazz Festival opens its 2026 season on Friday, July 24, at the Frederick Gunn School in Washington, Connecticut. The evening will feature a gala and a concert led by saxophonist Don Braden featuring the Litchfield Jazz Fest Dectet. The festival began in 1996 and has been going strong ever since. The list of past performers reads like a who’s who of modern jazz greats, including Christian McBride, Soulive, Joshua Redman, Dave Douglas, Brad Mehldau and John Scofield, all of whom helped revive the genre for a new generation of fans at the turn of the millennium. Vocalists like Diana Krall, Dionne Warwick and Dr. John have made appearances as well. And, of course, the festival has been graced by established masters like saxophonists Sonny Rollins and Wayne Shorter; guitarist Bucky Pizzarelli; bassist Rufus Reid; drummers Roy Haynes and Tito Puente; the Preservation Hall Jazz Band; and pianists Dave Brubeck and

local legend Ahmad Jamal. Jamal, who died in April 2023 at his home in Ashley Falls, Massachusetts at the age of 92, was a pioneering jazz pianist. His minimalist style inspired generations of jazz

greats, including Miles Davis, who wrote in his autobiography that Jamal “knocked me out with his concept of space, his lightness of touch, his understatement, and the way he phrased notes, chords and

passages,” and is widely cited as saying, “All my inspiration comes from Ahmad Jamal.” Jamal’s performance came at the inaugural festival back

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INSIDE

OUR TOWNS

Affordable housing development on hold after discovery of soil contamination

CALENDAR

A list of upcoming events



CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

Powers dreams of owning her own studio where she can practice with her group, offer more classes, store costumes and create a space for her dancers to do their hair and makeup before performances. She said she hopes people learn about her classes so her company can grow and she can teach dances



Karina Powers and her students practice in Millbrook Hall.

KARINA POWERS

As a single mother and professor, Powers' mother, Carmen Méndez, put her children in dance classes and signed them up for track and field, always keeping them goal- and career-oriented. She helped Powers with her company by creating all of the costumes her dancers wear in their performances. After her mother's

Dancers in Powers' group are dedicated to learning the art of dance from different states in Mexico on Tuesday and Friday nights at Millbrook Hall. They travel from many different places in New York to participate, with some dancers traveling more than an hour to make it

"My mom, for me, is an angel. I put myself in her hands, and I have faith," Powers said. "I have faith that God, or something good, is going to be there for the group and for myself."

Now in its 38th year, Falcon Ridge has long been a launching pad for emerging singer-songwriters while welcoming acclaimed folk and Americana performers. This year's lineup includes Susan Werner, Jim Lauderdale, Eileen Ivers and the Brigidens, Vance Gilbert, Joe Jencks, Nerissa and Katryna Nields, The

"One of the great things about Falcon Ridge is the song swaps," said Werner. These in-the-round performances feature three or four songwriters seated together onstage, taking turns sharing songs. "They can careen off into wild directions and in about 25 minutes, you've

*For the full lineup and tickets,
visit falconridgefolk.com.*

Falcon Ridge Folk Festival regulars The Slambovian Circus of Dreams performing at the 2025 summer festival.



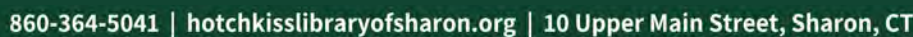
ALL CONCERTS ARE FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Picnic grounds open two hours before summer concerts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



Bucky Pizzarelli and Brandon Goldberg at the Litchfield Jazz Festival in 2017.

*For a full schedule and tickets, visit
litchfieldjazzfest.com*



Sea bass and shrimp gumbo

Each month, Dugazon owners Bobby Graham and Matthew Marden share a recipe inspired by the traditions, stories and sense of welcome at the heart of their shop in Sharon, Connecticut. Visit Dugazon at 19 W. Main St. Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and online at dugazonshop.com.



What's cooking at Dugazon?

Bobby Graham & Matthew Marden



PHOTO BY BOBBY GRAHAM

Sea bass and shrimp gumbo

- Ingredients**
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
 - 1/2 cup chopped onion
 - 1/4 cup chopped celery
 - 1/4 cup chopped green bell pepper
 - 1/4 cup chopped red bell pepper
 - 1/2 jalapeño, chopped
 - 1/2 tablespoon salt
 - 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
 - 1/2 cup seeded and chopped Italian plum tomatoes
 - 2 tablespoons minced garlic
 - 1 tablespoon minced shallots
 - 2 quarts fish stock (store-bought or frozen)
 - 1/2 pound sea bass, cut into 1-inch cubes, skin removed
 - 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
 - 1/2 teaspoon Crystal Hot Sauce (available at Dugazon)
 - 6 bay leaves, fresh or dried
 - 1 tablespoon minced fresh basil
 - 1 teaspoon minced fresh oregano

- 1 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves
- 12 fresh okra, sliced
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch
- 2 teaspoons Tony Chachere's Cajun Seasoning (available at Dugazon)
- 1/2 pound peeled medium shrimp (Guido's fresh Gulf shrimp is a favorite)
- 2 to 4 cups cooked white rice
- 1 cup chopped green onions

- Equipment**
- Large soup or stock pot
 - Wooden spoon
 - Rice cooker or saucepan
 - Soup or gumbo spoons
- Preparation**
- The cooking times are important to the texture and flavor of the finished gumbo.
- Heat the olive oil in a large pot over high heat. Add the onion, celery, green and red peppers, and jalapeño. Sauté for 1 minute. Add the

- salt and pepper and cook for another minute. Stir in the tomatoes, garlic and shallots and cook, stirring occasionally, for 4 to 5 minutes.
 - Add the fish stock, sea bass, Worcestershire sauce, Crystal Hot Sauce, bay leaves, basil, oregano and thyme. Bring to a boil and cook over high heat for about 8 minutes, stirring occasionally. Reduce the heat to medium.
 - Stir in the okra and Tony Chachere's Cajun Seasoning. Simmer for 15 minutes, skimming any foam from the surface as needed. Raise the heat to high and cook for 5 minutes. Add the shrimp, reduce the heat and simmer for 5 minutes. Stir the cornstarch into the gumbo and cook, stirring constantly, for 2 minutes to slightly thicken. Remove from the heat and taste before adjusting the seasoning.
 - To serve, ladle about 1 1/2 cups of gumbo into each soup bowl and top with about 1/2 cup cooked rice. Garnish with 1 to 2 tablespoons chopped green onions. Serve with crusty French bread and butter.
- Make-Ahead Tip**
- The gumbo can be made one day in advance, refrigerated and gently reheated before serving. Cook the rice the day you plan to serve it. Like many stews, the gumbo is even better the next day after the flavors have had time to meld.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Alt folk duo Sweet Petunia to perform a benefit at Random Harvest on Saturday, July 25.

COMMUNITY

Sweet Petunia: a benefit to support Random Harvest

By Lucia Iandolo

On Saturday, July 25, Americana/Alt Folk duo Sweet Petunia will perform at Random Harvest in Craryville, a worker-owned market, café and community space that supports farmers and brings people together through locally sourced food. The concert comes just months after the fatal two-vehicle crash at the intersection of Route 23 and County Route 7 that devastated the hamlet, disrupted local businesses and left a lasting emotional impact on the community.

After the crash, Random Harvest remained open and committed to connecting people through food and community. Simpson said the duo looks forward to contributing to a healing experience through their music. “We are honored to be there and to share our music,” Simpson said. “We’re happy to be part of a celebration and hopefully raise some funds and just have a good time.”

Sweet Petunia is made up of Mairead Guy and Maddy Simpson, who met while studying at Berklee College of Music. Throughout their college years, Guy and Simpson’s voices blended so beautifully that classmates often mistook them for siblings. After discovering their collaborative sound, they formed Sweet Petunia and began performing at music festivals while writing their debut album, “Foggy Mountain Mental Breakdown,” released earlier this year on Ani DiFranco’s label, Righteous Babe Records. The record explores themes rooted in Appalachian traditions while drawing inspiration from Boston’s DIY punk

scene. Sweet Petunia’s music combines deep, thought-provoking lyrics with intricate banjo playing to tell stories of self-discovery and life’s many complexities. The banjo seems to be having a resurgence in mainstream music, a trend the duo believes is driven by younger audiences seeking an escape from modern life and a return to something more tangible. “I think kids are basically just so fed up with the internet and want to go back,” Simpson said. “So it would make sense to me that they would be interested in more traditional music.”

Through the years they have spent collaborating, both musicians have continued to grow, learning new instruments that have expanded their sound. Along with the evolution of their music, their on-stage chemistry has also developed.

“We’ve gotten really good at banter,” Guy said. “People tell us that we’re really funny a lot, which is really meaningful.”

Simpson noted that when they first started playing together, neither of them knew how to play the instrument they are now best known for.

“Neither of us played the banjo, so that was something we learned and developed,” Simpson said. “We both literally learned how to play an entirely new instrument and how to write songs on it and how to incorporate that into the music that we make.”

Random Harvest is located at 1785 Route 23 in Craryville. The performance begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at events.humanitix.com/sweet-petunia-concert.

... Grumbling Gryphons

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

and added “Grumbling,” mainly for alliteration.

A gryphon, Elias said, is “not a negative thing. It’s the guardian of treasure. I like to think of it as guardian of a treasury of stories.”

Registrations are being accepted for children ages 6 to 14 for the theater arts camp that will begin July 27 and end with a July 31 performance of “The Adventures of Pinocchio.” Elias’ adaptation of the classic tale. Children will work with a team of professional actors, musicians and visual artists, Elias said. She will direct the performance, with assistance from her son, Daniel Saed.

Elias has been a storyteller all her life. “My mother was an important influence. She started a nursery school when I was a kid. I helped the younger kids. I would tell them stories, and we would act out plays. My parents were always taking me to theater and concerts, and so that had a profound influence on my life.”

Her many accolades include the Connecticut Office of the Arts’ 2018 Arts Hero Award and The Northwest Connecticut Arts Council’s 2018 CultureMAX Award for Arts Educator.

Millerton resident Jane Wood said that she joined the theater arts camp when she was 8 years old. Now 15, she is an assistant counselor, engaging with new and veteran campers. “If you’re



PHOTO BY JACK SHEEDY

Danny Saed, assistant director of “Pinocchio”; his mother and co-founder of Grumbling Gryphons Leslie Elias; theater arts camper Joyce Sun; artist and counselor Natalie Resto; and Steven Sun, Joyce Sun’s father.

an older camper, you might have a more advanced role with a bunch of lines, but in the ensemble, you’re doing a lot of singing and a lot of dancing,” she said. “Some people have like one or two individual lines throughout the performance.”

In past years, Wood has had featured roles in the camp performances, including the Queen of Hearts in “Alice in Wonderland.” This year her role is keeping younger kids entertained, she said.

Wood said she has learned a lot from Elias. “I learned how to organize a group of people. Sometimes it is not very pretty, but when it does get done, it is beautiful.”

On July 4, Natalie Resto

marched with the Grumbling Gryphons in the parade in Cornwall Village. “One of my main jobs that I do for Leslie is helping with illustrations for logos and flyers, as well as helping assist in props and costumes,” Resto said. For “Pinocchio” she will help create props that can be tailored for indoor or outdoor use.

“I come up with different kinds of art activities that the children will get to participate in during the theater camp,” Resto said.

The five-day camp and performance will mark the start of a summer filled with dramatic productions

by Grumbling Gryphons throughout New York and New England. “The Myth of Persephone,” one of Elias’ earliest and ever-popular plays, will be performed Aug. 8 at Stissing Center in Pine Plains. “Anansi-The Trickster Spider: A West African Folktale” will be performed Aug. 15 at the Harwinton Fairgrounds. Both performances will begin at 11 a.m., preceded by a pre-performance dramatic workshop at 10 a.m.

“I love working with children,” Elias said. “I love empowering children, giving them an opportunity to work as a team, make new friends, have fun and have input into our plays. It’s not just putting on the perfect play or the perfect show; it’s about co-creating and contributing to the whole.”

The public performance of “The Adventures of Pinocchio” will take place July 31 at Grumbling Gryphons headquarters at 29 Lake Road, West Cornwall. The rain location will be at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, 246 Warren Turnpike Road, Falls Village.

To register a child for the theater arts camp, or to learn more about this summer’s activities, visit www.grumblinggryphons.org, email LeslieElias@grumblinggryphons@gmail.com or call 860-672-0286.

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PHOTO PROVIDED

“42nd Street,” based on the 1933 film of the same name, premiered on Broadway in 1980 and ran at the Sharon Playhouse for the first time 15 years ago. The show will be revived at the Playhouse when it opens July 25. Expect high-energy singing and dancing alongside classic tunes such as “We’re in the Money” and “Lullaby of Broadway.” The show runs through Aug. 9. Tickets are available at sharonplayhouse.org

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Tri-Corner Calendar

JULY 23

Let’s Dance for Housing

The White Hart Inn, 15 Undermountain Road, Salisbury, Conn. DJ Dave Leonard will play the classic hits from the past. Come dance to support the Salisbury Housing Trust 6:30 p.m. The first glass of beer or wine on us and hearty hors d’oeuvres included! Silent Auction! Tickets: salisburyhousingtrust.org

JULY 24

Linoleum Printmaking Workshop with David Lesako

Mad Rose Gallery, 3 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. Using simple tools and materials, students will learn how to transform their ideas into bold designs, striking images and creative scenes on paper. This hands-on class introduces the essential techniques of printmaking while opening the door to endless artistic possibilities. Perfect for beginners and anyone ready to explore a fun, expressive and rewarding way to make art! 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Register at madrosegallery.com

“Letters From Max”

Ancram Center for the Arts, 1330 County Route 7, Ancram, N.Y. Performances of Sarah Ruhl and Max Ritvo’s poignant play run Wednesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Adapted from the pair’s 2018 book *Letters From Max: A Poet, a Teacher, a Friendship*, the production explores the extraordinary bond between the playwright and her former student through a series of heartfelt letters written as Ritvo faced the return of childhood cancer. Special events include a post-show TGIF Hang with the cast and staff on the porch, with a cash bar, on July 24. Tickets and information are available at ancramcenter.org.

Summer Portals Piano

Concert Series at Hotchkiss: Grand Finale Concert

11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, Conn. Young Artists and Guest Artists share the stage for a celebratory final performance at 7:30 p.m.

Berkshire Resilience Brass Band Concert

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org The David M. Hunt Library, in partnership with the Falls Village Recreation Commission, presents Summer Concerts on the Library Lawn. At 6 p.m., enjoy a concert with the Berkshire Resilience Brass Band. Bring chairs or a blanket, a picnic and beverages for an evening of great music!

Happy Hour Piano Series:

Calla Begley & Friends

American Mural Project, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn. 5 to 7 p.m. AMP’s Happy Hour Piano Series continues with live music and libations in Connecticut’s unique art space. Calla Begley, a singer and multi-instrumentalist from Collinsville, performs selections by artists including Lake Street Dive, Yebba and Cat Power. The series

highlights emerging Connecticut musicians. Tickets at americanmuralproject.org/piano-series.

Linoleum Printmaking

Workshop With David Lesako

Mad Rose Gallery, 3 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Discover the art of linoleum printmaking with artist David Lesako. Using simple tools and materials, participants will learn to transform ideas into bold designs, striking images and creative scenes on paper. This hands-on workshop introduces the essential techniques of printmaking while encouraging artistic exploration. Suitable for beginners and anyone interested in a fun, expressive and rewarding art-making experience. register at madrosegallery.com

Sam Lardner and

Barcelona in Concert

Salisbury Congregational Church, 30 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. A benefit concert for Vecinos Seguros 2. 7 p.m.

JULY 25

Old Time Dance

Foote Field, 65 Furnace Brook Road, Cornwall, Conn. Come and dance to the tunes and steps of New England in 1776! Music and calling by the Falls Village Fiddler & Friends. Bring a picnic at 6 p.m. Music and dancing starts at 7 p.m. No experience required. All ages welcome.

Artist-Love-Freedom

Opening Reception

Gallery of Dreams, 156 Gay St., Sharon, Conn. Celebrate the opening of “Artist-Love-Freedom,” a group exhibition featuring the work of 15 local artists in assemblage, lampwork jewelry, painting, woodworking, sculpture, photography, collage and handcrafted furniture. The exhibit runs through Sept. 20. 5 p.m. potluck, followed by original music from Jake Bell and poetry by David Capellaro. Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Accessibility Community

Conversation

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

Join library director Meg Sher at noon for a community conversation on increasing library accessibility. The library has received funding as part of the American Library Association’s Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grant to increase accessibility for those with mobility disabilities. Snacks will be served.

Carl D’Alvia Studio Talk

Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. cornwalllibrary.org Celebrated sculptor Carl D’Alvia welcomes visitors to his Cornwall studio for a conversation with Dina Shaulov-Wright about his creative process, from drawings to finished sculpture, followed by a reception. 5 to 6 p.m. Space is limited; registration required at CornwallLibrary.org or 860-672-6874.

Film Screening: “Rally Caps”

Stissing Center for Arts & Culture, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y. Celebrate the hometown return of “Rally Caps,” an

Items appear as space permits.

Submit calendar items to editor@lakevillejournal.com.

independent coming-of-age baseball film shot in Pine Plains. Starring Judd Hirsch, Carson Minniear and Amy Smart, the film follows a young ballplayer’s journey back to the game after a serious injury. The 7:30 p.m. screening will be followed by a Q&A with director and Pine Plains native Lee Cipolla, producer Katherine Borda, cast members Calee Nowak and Joseph Mazelli, and second assistant director JJ Hickey. Tickets and information at thehissingcenter.org or 518-771-3339.

The Magic of Moths: Celebrating National Moth Week

Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, Conn. Celebrate National Moth Week with an evening of moth observation and community science from 7:30 to 10 p.m. The program begins with a one-hour introduction to iNaturalist led by ambassadors Abby Sesselberg and Steve Mayo, followed by guided moth identification and data collection at the center’s moth stations. The free program is open to all ages. Advance registration is required. More information and registration at sharon.audubon.org or call 860-364-0250, ext. 115.

Nature Weaving with Flowers from Crooked Oak Farm

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org 1:30 to 4 p.m., weave fresh flowers and herbs from Crooked Oak Farm into a rustic loom made with branches and twine. Materials and natural looms provided. You’re also encouraged to bring your own natural items to weave. Register at scovillelibrary.org

Concert: Sweet Petunia

Random Harvest, 1785 New York 23, Craryville, N.Y. Sweet Petunia, the folk duo of Mairead Guy and Maddy Simpson, met at Berklee College of Music in 2018 and bonded over a shared love of traditional folk. Twice nominated for Boston Music Awards’ Best Folk Act, they blend bluegrass roots with indie, punk and DIY influences. Their debut album, “Foggy Mountain Mental Breakdown” on Ani DiFranco’s Righteous Babe Records, explores heartbreak, identity, friendship and self-discovery through rich harmonies and contemporary folk songwriting. This is a benefit concert for Random Harvest. 8 p.m.

PLACE | MEANT

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y. “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 through layered works that transform fragments of the physical world into reflections on landscape, perception and lived experience.

The exhibition runs through Aug. 22. A hands-on collage workshop, “Collage Your Place,” is scheduled for July 25 at 2 p.m. Visit millbrook-library.org for information.

Live Staged Reading:

Nebula + Q&A

The Moviehouse, 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. The Moviehouse is proud to present a live reading of Chelsea Altman’s acclaimed play NEBULA for members only. A Q&A with Altman and the cast will follow, moderated by Director Claire Karpen. 5:30 p.m.

Amenia vs. Millerton Fourth Annual Golf Tournament

Undermountain Golf Course, 274 Undermountain Rd., Copake, N.Y. To benefit the Amenias Free Library and NorthEast-Millerton Library. 2-person 9

Hole Scramble. Top prizes. Register through Undermountain Golf Course by calling 518-329-4444 or email service@undermountain-golf.com

Looking at Nature: Great Trees of Innisfree with Noted Horticulturist, Teacher and Innisfree Trustee Brad Roeller Innisfree Garden, 362 Tyrrel Road, Millbrook, N.Y. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Advance registration strongly suggested at innisfree-garden.org

JULY 26

The Making of

Independence Revisited

Sharon Historical Society & Museum, 18 Main St., Sharon, Conn. Exhibition curator and board chair Chris Robinson presents a lecture on the discoveries uncovered while researching *Independence*

Revisited: Sharon in 1776, 1876, and 1976, the museum’s exhibition celebrating 250 years of American independence. The free program begins at 3 p.m. Registration is requested by emailing rsvp@sharonhist.org.

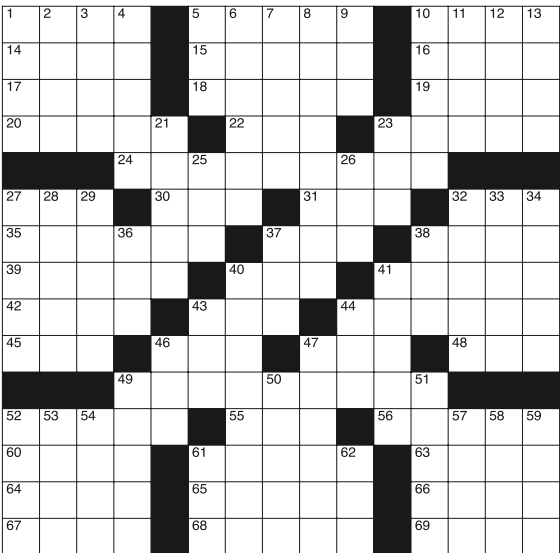
“Color in Motion”

Kent Memorial Library, 32 North Main St., Kent, Conn. kentmemoriallibrary.org An exhibition of paintings by Woodbury artist Lucy C. Pierpont will be on view in the library gallery. Pierpont’s work reflects a life-long engagement with art and draws inspiration from artists including Edward Hopper, Norman Rockwell, Joan Mitchell and Helen Frankenthaler. An opening reception will be held July 26 from 2 to 4 p.m. Registration for the reception is requested by calling 860-927-3761 or online.

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

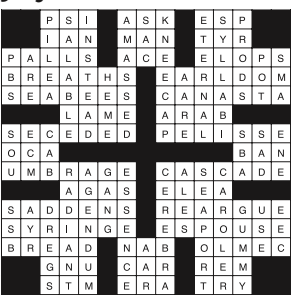
- Listen to
- Presents
- A type of guitar
- Actor Idris
- A citizen of Iran
- Pretentiously artistic
- Harness
- Diamond weight measurement
- “Better Call _”
- Fervent support
- Male cat
- Jewish spiritual leader
- Disposed to venture or take risks
- A way to nail
- Cool!
- Women’s _ movement
- “Losing My Religion” rockers
- Step-shaped recess
- A princess can detect it
- Tractor-trailer
- Leslie and Leon are two
- Color at the end of the spectrum
- Lines where fabrics are sewn
- Dodgers great Hershiser
- Floor covering
- Traveled aimlessly
- Rocker Stewart
- Body art
- Congressman (abbr.)
- No seats available
- Breaks apart
- Hand gesture
- Ballplayer’s tool
- Sword
- Baseball team
- Upper bract of floret of grass
- Italian Seaport
- Mars crater
- Tube on a shoelace
- U. of Miami mascot
- South American nation
- Video game series “Max _”
- Upper body part



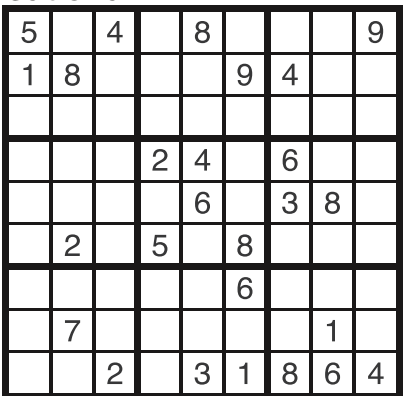
- The bottom layer
- Member of a Semitic people
- Part of a ticket
- Defunct monetary unit
- Challenges
- Body part
- Tell on
- By way of
- Shady green alcove
- Egyptian city
- _ and flowed
- Widens a hole
- Eurasian wheat
- Act incorrectly
- “Be back later”
- Al Bundy’s wife
- Ocean
- Large root eaten as a vegetable
- Units of subjective loudness
- Music genre
- A way to drench
- Popular hot beverage
- Silk-like cotton fabric

- Rumanian city
- Come back
- Vaccine developer
- Canadian law enforcers
- Wings
- Observational comedian Bill
- Small fry
- _ Clapton, musician
- Take a chance
- Semi-liquid food for babies
- Consumed food

July 16 Solution

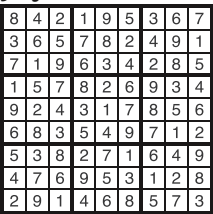


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Our Towns

Salisbury affordable housing development on hold after crews discover oil-contaminated soil

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Shortly after construction crews dug the foundation for Holley Place, an affordable housing development in Lakeville, crews noticed the smell of fuel oil and brought concerns to the Salisbury Housing Committee (SHC), the developers of the project.

The Salisbury Board of Selectmen discussed the matter during a special meeting on Monday, July 20, confirming that the findings will impact the overall cost and construction timeline for the proposed 14-unit housing project. The discovery of contaminated soil, which occurred in mid-June, forced the project to pause with environmental testing expected to last for at least an additional month.

Holley Place, located at 11 Holley St. in Salisbury, is a project developed by the SHC as a 15,000-square-foot complex with three stories. Officials broke ground on March 24, 2026 after a five-year application and planning process and the building was expected to be ready for occupancy in spring 2027, although that timeline may shift. When complete, the building will feature 10 one-bedroom and four two-bedroom apartments — and a garage beneath the structure with 22 parking spaces.

The SHC, a private non-profit organization, currently owns and operates 50 units of affordable rental housing in Salisbury.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The Holley Place affordable housing development in Lakeville is on hold until the extent of soil contamination can be determined.

Jocelyn Ayer, a consultant for the SHC, shared a written statement to the Board of Selectmen during the meeting addressing the environmental concerns.

Ayer recounted the events after workers from LaRosa Construction discovered the soil that smelled of fuel oil, noting they immediately contacted an environmental consultant to test the soil. Testing confirmed that fuel-impacted soil was present on site, and crews shared the results with the SHC and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

Ayer said the SHC then immediately hired its own environmental consultant to do further testing to determine the extent of the contaminated soil and notified the town.

Salisbury’s environmental

consultant, Russell Dirienzo of Arcadis, said the contaminated soil is not hazardous and that it is not unusual to discover contamination when digging up a historic site.

The 0.31-acre Holley Street property was donated to the town in 1967 by the Belcher family, with the condition that the town demolish the structure originally known as the Holley Block, which dated to the 1890s. The building was subsequently torn down, and the site was later transformed into Bicentennial Park before being identified as a location for affordable housing.

The SHC did conduct a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment before it closed on the funding for the project and said no environmental concerns were identified at that time.

“We are now awaiting a proposal from our environmental consultant with a cost and timeline for the additional testing,” the timeline stated. While the exact timeline remains unclear, officials said it will lead to increased costs and construction delays.

SHC also engaged an environmental consultant, Steve DiNapoli of Big East Environmental in Norwalk, who will continue to work with Dirienzo.

First Selectman Curtis Rand provided little comment on the matter during the July 20 meeting, but said the SHC has been “very cooperative” throughout the process.

Asked about the party responsible to fund and manage potential soil remediation, Selectman Barrett Prinz said, “let’s find out what the problem is first. There might not be a problem.”

Other business

During the July 20 meeting, additional business was discussed, including the recommendation to town meeting to accept a \$611,000 bid from Burlington Construction of Torrington to update the historic railroad station on Ethan Allen Street. Updates would include raising the building, adding a new foundation, and moving it back several feet.

The recommendation comes after box trucks continued to hit the roof of the building.

Rand invited additional ideas and comments before an August town meeting.

Falls Village sexton files complaint against Town Clerk

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — A formal complaint filed by cemetery sexton Tracey Wilson against Town Clerk Johanna Mann was brought before the Board of Selectmen during its regular meeting Monday, July 13.

The complaint alleges that Mann ignored Wilson while she attempted to complete required state business at Town Hall.

According to the complaint, Wilson went to Town Hall on July 9 to file a “required monthly state section report which requires the town clerk’s signature.”

“Despite waiting respectfully, I was ignored,” Wilson wrote. “The town treasurer [Michelle Hansen] realized what was happening and stepped in to help.”

“Professionalism, respect and timely communication are essential in local government,” Wilson wrote. “Being disregarded while attempting to carry out state required section duties is unacceptable.”

However, Mann told The Lakeville Journal Monday that Wilson’s account is not accurate. She said she sent an email to the Board of Selectmen stating the complaint “stems directly from an incident on July 8, when Tracey Wilson verbally attacked me as I was leaving work.”

According to Mann, Wilson entered Town Hall the following day at 10:47 a.m. while Mann was on the phone with technical support.

“I acknowledged her and let her know I would be with her as soon as possible,” Mann wrote.

Mann said Town Treasurer Michelle Hansen “came out and facilitated the paperwork signing, for which I thanked her.”

“The total time between Tracey Wilson entering the Town Hall and receiving assistance was 22 seconds,” Mann wrote.

First Selectman Dave Barger said the board is aware of the conflicting accounts and is seeking legal advice before determining how to proceed.

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