

# The Lakeville Journal

lakevillejournal.com

16 PAGES IN 2 SECTIONS VOLUME 130 NUMBER 4

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026 \$3.00

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



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

The Cornwall Music Bowl hosted its fourth summer concert on Saturday, Aug. 15. Musicians like Wilder Huckleberry, Sheridan Tekosky, Don Bracken and Graham Corrigan, left to right, took the stage before main act Ruby Leftstep closed out the night.

## Cornwall Music Bowl sets the stage for outdoor entertainment

By D.H. Callahan

CORNWALL — As the sun began to set over Cornwall Bridge on Saturday, Aug. 15, joy and music filled the air. The joy emanated from a rambunctious pack of children running around like a flock of starlings in the evening sky. The music came from New Hartford's own Ruby Leftstep. The cause for all the commotion? The Cornwall Music Bowl.

The name puzzles locals and out-of-towners alike. Most "music bowls" are grand amphitheaters with capacities in the thousands. Clearly, such a space does not exist in Cornwall, a town where a

slow-moving tractor can cause a newsworthy traffic jam. But after walking through the tented patio area on the side of the Cornwall Market, you emerge at the bottom of an unmistakable bowl filled with music.

Directly behind the Market is a new stage so fresh you can still smell the saw cuts. In front of that stage sits an enthusiastic gathering of music fans on folding chairs and picnic benches, as well as on the grassy forum of the Music Bowl itself. It feels like a secret little community party, but everybody's invited.

The idea for the Bowl came from Chris Sampson, a music industry

veteran who worked on producing the Bonnaroo festivals with Superfly Entertainment. Now working at Spotify, Chris and his family moved to the area in 2019, just before the COVID-19 pandemic. When venues slowly started to reopen, Sampson grew frustrated

See MUSIC, Page A8

## Kent officials warn residents of email scam

By Alec Linden

KENT – Town Hall is warning residents about a fraudulent email impersonating the Land Use Office and requesting payment.

According to an email sent out by the Town Clerk's office on Aug. 12, the scam requests payment related to a Special Permit Application as well as an "Application Review and Approval Fee."

The clerk noted that the scam may be particularly convincing

because it lists the name of Karen Casey, the current Planning and Zoning Commission Chair, who took on the role in November.

The clerk urged anyone who receives the email not to respond in any way, including the "unsubscribe" button. Residents who receive the email are asked to contact the Land Use Office at landuseadmin@townofkentct.gov or 860-927-4625.

Kent uses a federally verified ".gov" domain for official email

See SCAM, Page A3

## Sharon could lose 22 trees ahead of sidewalk replacement project

By Ruth Epstein

SHARON – As Sharon moves ahead with a major downtown sidewalk replacement project that will improve safety and walkability, 22 trees along the route have been identified as being in poor condition and recommended for removal.

The fate of the trees was a major focus of a public meeting Wednesday, Aug. 12, as town officials, residents, engineers and tree experts discussed the potential impact on the treescape.

The meeting marked the second gathering on the topic. An initial conversation held in January dealt with the type of materials to be used for the sidewalks, although no decision has been made on that matter. Cardinal Engineering's Ray

"Some of the sidewalks have lots of cracks and damage from roots. They're beyond their useful life. We will bring them up to current standards and ADA compliance."

Ray Seelye, senior project manager

Seelye, senior project manager for the sidewalk proposal, began by explaining its overall scope, which involves replacing 11,000 feet of bituminous asphalt that is in poor condition. The path stretches primarily from the shopping center along Route 41 to the intersection of Routes 4 and 343, taking in parts of West Main Street and other small sections along New Street, Hospital

Hill and Cemetery Hill. They will mainly be 4-feet wide, as they are now.

"Some of the sidewalks have lots of cracks and damage from roots," Seelye said. "They're beyond their useful life. We will bring them up to current standards and ADA compliance to provide a safe pedestrian route throughout the town."

The project received a grant from the Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP) for \$1.1 million. The total cost is estimated to be \$2.1 million, with the remaining balance likely to be covered by the town.

Seelye said wherever the sidewalk crosses a driveway, repairs will be made, but they must meet ADA requirements.

See SIDEWALK, Page A4



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### Local Matters

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In The Journal this week

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Online This Week

Video of Cornwall Music Bowl

To watch the musicians in action at the Cornwall Music Bowl, visit @lakevillejournal on Instagram.

POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

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

Head-on collision causes serious injuries

At approximately 9:30 p.m. on Aug. 10, a Buick Encore GX and a Subaru Impreza were traveling opposite directions on Route 7 near the intersection with Grace Way in North Canaan when the Encore crossed the double yellow line into the oncoming lane for an unknown reason, causing a head-on collision. The Buick's driver, Samantha Whaples, 22, of North Canaan, was transported to St. Mary's Hospital by North Canaan EMS for suspected serious injuries. In the Impreza, which carried three passengers, Donna Martin, 46, of North Canaan was transported to Baystate Hospital by Lifestar helicopter, while Michael Martin, 24, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma was transported to Sharon Hospital by Falls Village EMS with serious injuries. Victoria Martin, 26, also of Oklahoma City, was taken to Waterbury Hospital by Norfolk EMS for minor injuries. The driver—Daniel Martin, 49, of East Canaan—was not injured in the crash. The accident is under investigation, and anyone with information is asked to contact Trooper O'Neil #907 at matthew.oneil@ct.gov or the Troop B phone line at 860-626-1820.

Car strikes tree

Near noon on Aug. 11, Nadia Sirena, 38, of Queens, New York was driving west on Farnum Road in Salisbury with two minors in the vehicle when the Volkswagen Golf she was driving ran off the road, striking an embankment and a tree approximately 20 feet from the edge of the westbound lane. None of the occupants were

injured, but the vehicle had to be towed from the scene. Sirena was issued a written warning for failure to maintain lane.

Operating under the influence arrest

On Aug. 11, troopers served an arrest warrant to Josephine Trinchillo, 25, of Falls Village for an incident that occurred in April of this year. She was taken into custody and processed for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs, after which she was released on a \$1,000 non-surety bond. She is scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court on Aug. 25.

Warrant served for mystery road scrapes

On Aug. 12, troopers served an arrest warrant to Kurt Stella, 55, of North Canaan for an incident in July of this year in which a vehicle struck a utility pole along Route 7 in Falls Village, causing damage to both the vehicle and the pole. Scrape marks observed by an anonymous complainant were reportedly visible on Sand Road, Boinay Hill Road, Route 44, New High Street and onto Housatonic Avenue, where Stella resides. His white Dodge Ram was also reported by the complainant to have sustained heavy damage to its right side. Stella did not deny the crash, and stated he had swerved to avoid an oncoming vehicle when he sideswiped the utility pole. Stella was arrested for evading responsibility and failure to maintain lane, and was released on a \$500 non-surety bond. He is scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court on Aug. 26.

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

Nostalgic items find new homes at Noble Horizons tag sale

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The dining room at Noble Horizons was packed with shoppers and items for sale on Friday, Aug. 14.

Sheila Moore, a summer resident of Salisbury, had an armful of jigsaw puzzles earmarked for a friend on Mt. Riga, where there is no electricity and little cell phone service.

"It's a traditional way to occupy the time," she said.

Amy Lake of Salisbury found a small wooden carving of a bird on a stick. "It looked sad, so I bought it," she said.

Anne Graham of Salisbury was in the middle of furnishing her new house, and was delighted to find a couch, which was delivered. "They just loaded it up in the pickup and brought it right over."

A music fan who declined to give his name picked carefully through the CDs, which were priced at 25 cents each. He checked first to see if the disc was in the case, and then examined the discs for scratches.

He had a successful haul, including "Sticky Fingers" by The Rolling Stones and Pink Floyd's "A Momentary Lapse of Reason."

At lunchtime, there were



burgers and hot dogs outside, and at 1 p.m. singer and guitarist Lisa Pellegrino set up by the pond.

Pellegrino was momentarily nonplussed because she had left her amplifier cord at home, but her Martin acoustic guitar generated enough sound to be heard.

Pellegrino, of Newburgh, N.Y., often performs with two or three other musicians in a group called The Soil and Soul Band. She said her primary influences are Pete Seeger and Nina Simone.

"Pete got people singing, which is why his music is good for incorporating into elder care," she said.

The Noble Horizons Auxiliary is made up of volunteers who raise money for special items and activities for residents.

Shoppers search for rare finds during the Noble Horizons tag sale on Aug. 14.

Amy Lake finds a bird carving on a stick.



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Musician Lisa Pellegrino plays a set of tunes by the pond during the tag sale.

Salisbury median price holds at \$920,000 while sales increase

By Christine Bates

SALISBURY — Salisbury's median single-family home price, excluding condos, held steady at \$920,000 for the 12 months ending July 31, 2026. That was down 5.6% from \$975,000 a year earlier but up 6.4% from \$865,000 for the same 12-month period in 2024.

Ten homes sold in July, the highest monthly total since September 2020. A total of 58 homes sold during the latest 12-month period, up from 44 the previous year and 50 in 2024.

Annual sales peaked at 117 in May 2021 amid the pandemic-era housing boom. Prices have risen sharply since 2024, reaching a record median of \$1.35 million in May 2025.

Inventory of all listed residential properties for sale rose slightly to 24 by early August. High-end homes continue to dominate, with 14 homes asking over \$1 million and only 10 below the median of \$920,000.

Furnished seasonal and academic rentals remained plentiful in early August, with 26 homes available from \$2,250 for an unfurnished apartment to \$12,000 for a five bedroom house. Eight summer rentals are still listed as available.

Salisbury Sales and Transfers in July

3 Prospect Street – 5 bedroom/3 full bath/2 half bath on 1 acre transferred by Estate of Elizabeth Nicholas Geer to Laura Allyn Geer Trustee and Christopher Comfort Trustee of Geer Comfort Home Revocable Trust for \$1,235,000  
120 Farnum Road – 2 bedroom/2 bath home on 1.56 acres transferred by 120 Farnum Road LLC to Kimberly and Nicholas Berens for \$925,000  
77 Belgo Road – 10.29 acres of vacant land trans-



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

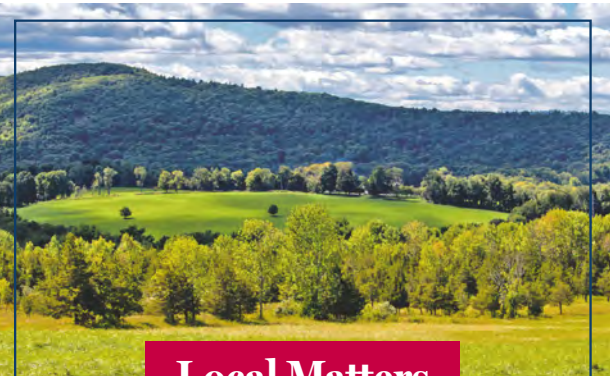
At the end of a quiet street in Lakeville, 21 Perry Street sold on July 17, 2026, for \$915,000. The sale was close to Salisbury's 12-month median price of \$920,000, and substantially above the assessor's estimated market value of \$622,500.

ferred by Lew and Amanda Nash to Michael Scott Irwin Trustee, Simona Wilrich Irwin Trustee to Michael Scott Irwin and Simona Wilrich Irwin Revocable Living Trust for \$370,000  
60 White Hollow Road – Automobile garage transferred by LRP Garages LLC to Andrew Greenwald for \$250,000  
37 Library Street – 2 bedroom/2 bath home on .34 acres transferred by Carol Kastendieck Estate to Dorothea Nauai for \$350,000  
22 Robin Hill Lane – 3 bedroom/3 bath home on 1.9 acres transferred by Peter Whitmore to Lawrence and Lisa Bloomenkrantz for \$800,000  
24 Ethan Allen Street – 4 bedroom/2.5 bath home on .21 acres sold by Donna Macletchie and Edward Busk to Lora and Franklin Carr for \$850,000  
6 Puddlers Lane – 2 bedroom/2 bath home on .63 acres transferred by George and Elizabeth Wallace to

Fern Flomenhaft and Adrian Sondheimer for \$605,000  
197 Taconic Road – 2 bedroom/2 bath home on 1.14 acres transferred by Thomas Muldoo and Donald Oliver to Christina Rubino Trustee Bullfish Revocable Trust for \$1,150,000  
47 East Main Street – 2 bedroom/1 bath home on .67 acres transferred by Jane McGarry Estate to Madison Kiefer for \$365,000  
21 Perry Street – 3 bedroom/3 bath home on .52 acres transferred by Ana Beatriz DeBouchard and Norely Ysmael Bouchard Soto to Benjamin Steger and Abigail Montgomery Steger for \$915,000  
56 Sharon Road – 5 bedroom/2.5 bath home on 2.54 acres transferred by Jason Brooks and Anne Rebecca Powers to Benjamin Schippers and Hedda Burnett for \$1,860,000  
89 Belgo Road – 3 bedroom/3 bath home on 3.5 acres transferred by Da-

vid Smyton Trustee David J Smyton Revocable Trust and Michael Hansen Trustee Michael J Hansen Revocable Trust to Josephine Torrente and Michael Engleman for \$2,495,000  
39 Indian Mountain Road – 3 bedroom/2 bath home on 1.2 acres transferred by Sean Patrick McCarthy Trustee Carolyn G McCarthy Revocable Trust to Kristin and William McAllister for \$446,000

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



Local Matters

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# Our Towns



During a talk at Kent Town Hall on Thursday, Aug. 13, forester and author Ethan Tapper imparted a call to action for a better future for forests and humanity alike.

## From punk rocker to forester, Ethan Tapper tells Kent how to love a forest

By Alec Linden

KENT – How do you love a forest in the modern era of invasive species, rampant plant diseases and climate change? You love it toughly, and you love it “with your whole body” according to forester, author and punk band frontman Ethan Tapper who visited Kent Town Hall for an evening talk on Thursday, Aug. 13.

Supported by the Kent Land Trust, Kent Parks and Recreation Commission, Kent Conservation Commission and Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Tapper left his stage persona back home in Vermont, instead sharing a message of deep empathy for the natural world to a nearly full Town Hall meeting room. That empathy, Tapper said, does not always mean sitting back and leaving the forest alone, but sometimes taking action — and that action is not always pretty.

“A really good love story,” Tapper said in the early stages of his hour-long speech, “isn’t like, two people meet and fall in love and everything is good forever, right?”

Instead, “they climb mountains and they cross rivers and they make compromises and sacrifices and they do things that they never thought they had to do — and I really feel like that’s what our ecosystems are asking from us right now.”

Tapper articulated his philosophy of land stewardship through his own complicated story, starting from his childhood in south-

ern Vermont when he had no interest in forests at all, and wanted only one thing — “My passion was that I wanted to get out of there.”

Even today, in the wake of success from his 2024 book “How to Love a Forest: The Bittersweet Work of Tending to a Changing World,” which won a New England Book Award for Nonfiction, Tapper struggles to pin down what exactly he is.

“I’m basically a forester from Vermont,” he said, “although now I kind of say I don’t know what I am.” Tapper also alluded to his position as a popular figure on social media platforms — “I call myself a digital storyteller, which is my attempt at a less gross way to say influencer.”

Despite the happy accidents of his life — he claimed the book was the unplanned result of six years of morning journaling — the story Tapper told Thursday evening was one of very deliberately building a home.

Tapper spent much of the talk describing his own home, which is a 175-acre mountainside tract of forest in Vermont he has come to call Bear Island since purchasing it nearly a decade ago. When he first saw it, he said, “everything was wrong.” There was trash everywhere, old half-buried logging equipment sticking out of the ground, rampant invasive plants and signs of deer overpopulation. Tapper said after an hour wandering the steep hillside, he “couldn’t find one healthy



Ethan Tapper told Kent residents that loving a forest isn’t easy, but it’s certainly worth it.

tree.”

He said the dire condition was due to poor logging practice in the area several decades earlier. Initially put off by the property, it eventually won him over after a pivotal moment standing on a log landing — a clearing used for timber storage — and looking at the ruined ecosystem around him.

He said the forest has improved greatly since then, and continues to every day. It didn’t do it by itself, though — Tapper had to intervene.

He said the methods he used to bring it back from the brink may seem counterintuitive to many, like cutting down thousands of unhealthy trees, which makes room for healthy ones to grow, or killing dozens of deer that eat native understory plants and young shrubs and trees. But making those decisions is what it means to truly love a forest, Tapper said.

Tapper accented the speech with passages from his upcoming book, “The Forest Year: Finding Hope in a World Worth Saving,” set to be published in October, that specifically related to birds.

“This seems to be an exceptionally birdy place,” he said early on. “Am I wrong?”

From the nods and murmurs of assent from the crowd, he assumed correctly. He also acknowledged the several bird conservation projects in town, such as an ongoing effort by the Kent Land Trust, the Marvelwood School, the Sharon Audubon Center and the Purple Martin Conservation Association to protect breeding populations of the eastern purple martin, which Tapper said was one of his favorite birds.

In one passage, Tapper compared the “winter birds” that spend the cold season in the Vermont woods to his community of friends that “have chosen to stay in this place and with each other.”

“We have chosen roots over wings,” he recited. “It’s a different kind of freedom.”

Following the reading, Tapper said that this type of freedom embodies “the act of stewardship,” in that it is deliberate, it’s not always easy, and it’s an ongoing process. Just as he built a home for himself at Bear Island, stewardship at both the personal and global scale is really about building a home that supports humans and the natural world alike.

“We’re all standing on that log landing,” he said.

## Falls Village receives funding for Cobble Road bridge

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Falls Village has received state funding to replace a deteriorating bridge and culvert on Cobble Road, Falls Village First Selectman David Barger said during a monthly meeting on Monday, Aug. 10. The project could require temporary repairs to a separate bridge on the road that has been closed since March.

The grant, which totals \$561,600, was awarded through the state’s Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP), and will replace the small bridge and culvert over Wangum Lake Brook with a larger structure. The grant was previously announced in a July 23 statement by the state Department of Transportation.

“This project will replace the existing bridge and culvert over Wangum Lake Brook on Cobble Road with a larger structure that greatly improves hydraulic capacity and access between Upper Mountain Road and Huntsville-South Canaan Road (Route 63),” the DOT said.

Barger said that the Cobble Road culvert was installed after a major flood in 1955 and “worked

well” for decades. In recent years, however, the culvert has filled with silt, suffered structural damage and is no longer functioning properly.

Complicating the project is a separate bridge at the opposite end of Cobble Road over the Hollenbeck River, which was closed March 30 after a state inspection found it unsafe.

In May, Barger said he received a 66-page report from the DOT outlining the issues with the Hollenbeck River bridge and warning of “imminent failure.”

Barger said the bridge is expected to be replaced in 2029 or 2030, with the project fully funded by federal money.

In the meantime, however, in order for crews to get equipment to the other end of Cobble Road for the Wangum Lake Brook project, it may be necessary to make a temporary repair to the closed Hollenbeck River bridge.

That repair would allow for one lane of traffic, including residential traffic.

Barger said nothing has been finalized, but the goal is to complete both the culvert and bridge projects with the least amount of disruption for the nearby residents.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### 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 August 10, 2026:

Approved — Application #IWWC-26-32 by Allied Engineering Assoc. Inc for a residential home with septic and well. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 18 as lot 13-4 and is known as 75 Scoville Ore Mine Road, Salisbury. The owner of the property is Zacharia Warner.

Accepted the Wetland Assessment and Restoration Recommendations report by LandTech dated June 26, 2026 as partially satisfying the requirements of the consent order associated with the property known as 11 Route 7 (shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 04 as lot 31-1), pending submission and approval of the final vegetation restoration and maintenance plan.

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  
08-20-26

### TOWN OF SHARON BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS Legal Notice of Meeting on:

Saturday, September 5th,  
2026; 9am-10am

Owners of motor vehicles registered in the Town of Sharon are warned that the Board of Assessment Appeals will meet in open

session at Sharon Town Hall, on the second floor, for the purpose of hearing appeals related to the assessment of motor vehicles on the Grant List as of October 1, 2025. All persons that are aggrieved by the assessment are hereby warned to make their appeal to the board. Applications are available on our website — [www.sharonct.gov](http://www.sharonct.gov)

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas F. Casey  
08-20-26

### WARNING SPECIAL TOWN MEETING TOWN OF SHARON AUGUST 27, 2026

The legal voters of the Town of Sharon and those entitled to vote in meetings of said Town are hereby warned and notified that a Special Town Meeting of said Town, will be held at the Sharon Town Hall, 63 Main Street, on Thursday, August 27, 2026 at 6:00 PM for the following purposes:

1. To see what action the Town will take to approve expenditures from the Opioid Settlement Funds as follows: Sharon Volunteer Fire Department Ambulance Squad \$14,000 and the Regional Opioid Settlement Fund \$10,000 through the NW Hills COG, as approved by the Board of Finance.

2. To see what action the Town will take to appropriate \$54,100 from the Undesignated Fund for a Feasibility Study for additions and site improvements to the Sharon Public Works Facility, as approved by the Board of Finance.

Dated at Sharon, Connecticut this 28th day of July 2026.

SELECTMEN OF THE  
TOWN OF SHARON

Casey T. Flanagan  
Lynn S. Kearcher  
John G. Brett  
08-20-26

## SCAM

Continued from Page A1

correspondence, so any communication purportedly from Town Hall that uses a different domain should be considered fraudulent.

Kent experienced similar email scams in November, when residents reported

fraudulent messages claiming to be from the Land Use Office. Those messages also requested money for an “Application Review and Approval Fee,” which officials stated at the time does not exist.

**SAT., AUG. 29 | 7:00 PM**

**Bill Charlap Trio**

Grammy Award-winning Jazz Pianist and Master of the Great American Songbook  
“Invariably Zeroes In on Its Essence” — *TIME*  
David Wong, Bass; Dennis Mackrel, Drums

Music Mountain Summer Festival

**SUN., AUG. 30 | 3:00 PM**

**Cassatt String Quartet & Javier Montiel, Viola**

Clarinet Quintets by von WEBER & MONTIEL (premiere);  
MOZART Viola Quintet No. 4 in G Minor, K. 516; and  
“Audubon’s Tomb” Talk with Fred Baumgartner | 1:00 PM

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

OBITUARY

Jeff Rosati

WEST CORNWALL — Jeff Rosati, 72, of West Cornwall, Connecticut, passed away peacefully on August 11, 2026.

Born in New Milford on January 18, 1954, Jeff was the devoted son of the late Kathryn Valtrum.

After graduating from New Milford High School, he began his career with Eversource as a meter reader, dedicatedly serving the company for 42 years before retiring in 2014 as Chief Garage Mechanic.

In 1979, during a chance meeting while getting a haircut, Jeff met the love of his life, Bernetta (Marshall). Their love story was one for the record books, sharing a deeply devoted marriage of 45 years.

In 1983, Jeff and Bernetta found their forever home in Cornwall, building a life centered on hard work and quiet kindness.

In his retirement, “Little Jeffy” was happiest being outdoors or in his barn. He loved tinkering on projects, tending to his garden, and caring for his hummingbirds. A treasured friend who was always willing to lend a helping hand, he could often be found happily mowing the lawn or pulled over roadside on his beloved John Deere tractor catching up with neighbors.

Jeff will be profoundly missed by his loving wife, Bernetta; the Marshall family of Crane, Texas; and countless friends across Cornwall who held him dear.

A Graveside Service will be held at North Cornwall Cemetery, Rattlesnake Rd., West Cornwall, CT on Thursday August 20 at 11:00 a.m.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

For more obituaries, see page A5

SIDEWALK

Continued from Page A1

Greg Beck of Bartlett Tree Experts said his company completed an initial inspection in April and graded the trees as good if they were healthy, fair if they had moderate structural defects, and poor if structural problems could not be abated.

Some trees, he said, can sustain impacts of construction and not be structurally affected. Others cannot and have to be removed.

During a follow-up visit in July, experts were most concerned with the honey locusts along Main Street. Four of them were the worst offenders of raising sidewalks, noting four of 18 are recommended for removal. Several audience members favored removing the tree nearest West Main Street, saying it blocks the stop sign and is responsible for many near-accidents.

Out of the total of 130 trees assessed, 22 are categorized as poor and recommended to be removed, said Allan Fenner of Bartlett Tree Experts. Eighty are rated good and 28 are rated fair.

During the meeting, Philip Barlow, a landscape architect from Third Act Connecticut – a statewide movement focused on climate and democracy – spoke about the various materials that could be used on the sidewalks, sharing pros and cons for each. He compared asphalt, concrete, pavers, stone dust and stamp concrete, among others. Asphalt is the least expensive and would cost around \$450,000, while concrete would cost \$780,000. The additional options could cost up to \$1 million or more.

The engineers emphasized that they will install the material chosen by the town and Board of Selectmen and that they are not recommending one over another. An informal show of hands by those present showed there are mixed opinions for either asphalt or concrete.



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

A residence approved for construction more than two years ago was back before the Planning and Zoning Commission on Aug. 13 for proposed tree thinning along the ridgeline, visible at the top center of the image.

Horizon-line protection headlines P&Z meeting

By Alec Linden

KENT – Horizon-line developments continue to be a prickly issue in Kent, with three applications for projects located on Kent’s ridges and hills dominating a three-hour meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission last week.

Since 2005, Kent has specifically regulated proposals for projects that may impact views of the region’s mainly forested ridgetops, which many residents consider a key aspect of the town’s rural character.

The applications reviewed Thursday, Aug. 13, concerned two existing homes within the Horizon-Line Overlay District. A third involved a plan to subdivide a wooded hillside property below a ridge between Beardsley Road and Lake Waramaug to allow for construction of a new residence.

A contentious tone was set early in the meeting, when resident Matthew Winter cautioned the Commission about hilltop developments, pointing to a construction project on Kenmont Road, approved in June 2024, that has disrupted the tree line atop a steep incline visible from Route 7 and Cobble Road.

“The development should not have been approved, in my opinion, and the ridgeline is now permanently scarred,” said Winter, who is a former chair of Kent’ P&Z commission.

Winter was referring to the development of a five-bedroom home, pool and pool house currently being built at the end of a 1,200-foot driveway accessed from 135 Kenmont Road. That project was back on Thursday night’s agenda, but the discussion regarding what property owner Jessica Goldvarg described as unintentional tree removal during construction, was relatively uncontroversial.

Several commissioners noted the obvious impact viewed from Cobble Road and the surrounding area, and Goldvarg, who is an architect, expressed her regret at the situation. She presented a planting plan to fill in the thinned area, which was generally well received by P&Z, though commissioners requested the addition of conifers to thicken the tree cover.

Goldvarg was asked to return before the commission on Aug. 20 with an updated plan.

Another application to extend the first floor and part of the second story of a home on Gorham Road was approved without much debate as commissioners agreed there would be no impact to the horizon-line.

A proposal to establish a residential plot on a prominent ridge in Kent Hollow provoked more conversation.

The plans call for carving out a 5.4-acre parcel from a 45-acre lot that climbs the hillside to the east of Beardsley Road in Kent Hollow. The property currently supports a commercial maple sugaring operation and a single-family home with two barns on 3.8 acres. The remaining land is held by the Kent Land Trust under a conservation easement, but the terms of the easement allow for the construction of a residence, which would go on the 5.4 acre plot.

The project was first proposed to P&Z last month, when Commissioners asked the applicant, land owner Mary Avery Larned, to perform visibility tests to determine if a new structure would affect views of the ridge from elsewhere in Kent Hollow.

Larned returned to the Aug. 13 meeting with data and drone footage from “balloon tests” she performed, where balloons were placed at 35 feet, which is the maximum allowed building

height in Kent, at the site of proposed construction. Larned reported that the balloons sat between 25 and 35 feet below the top of the dense canopy, and were impossible to locate from any of the surveyed public road vantage points in Kent Hollow.

Commissioners expressed their appreciation for Larned’s diligence, but had remaining doubts for the proposed location.

“It’s nice to always count on trees as a buffer,” said commissioner Darrell Cherniske, “but for our analysis, based on our regulations and the map that we use, we don’t take trees into account when determining impact.”

“If the amount of clearing occurred up on that ridge to allow for a house, a pool, a garage and a septic system, you better believe you would see those balloons,” he added. Other commissioners asked what the site would look like from the surrounding area in the winter when the foliage is gone.

“The drone footage is beautiful,” Cherniske said. “Part of the reason that drone footage is beautiful is because as you swung around to the panorama,” which showed the pastoral expanse of Kent Hollow flanked by wooded ridges, “the majority of the hilltops are undeveloped.”

While this application is for a subdivision, and any construction plan will have to come back before the commission for additional review, project engineer George Johannesen of Allied Engineering said that a prospective buyer had asked experts to examine whether the proposed plot could support a six bedroom house with a pool house and pool.

“I would assume that when you sell that lot, you’re not going to have control over what they do,” said Cherniske. “And chances are, someone buying a lot at the end of a long driveway near a ridgeline... they’re going to max it out.”

Cherniske asked the applicant to consider a different location further down the hillside, but Larned said that would adversely impact the maple sugaring operation and present further zoning hurdles and issues with the conservation easement.

Land surveyor Gary Hock, who was also present at the Thursday meeting, said that the site is well suited for a residence as “it’s a natural plateau.” He also described it as “mid-slope” rather than on a ridgeline, which was supported by Johannesen’s data that even at maximum height, the top would remain 40 feet below the ridge and not impact the horizon line from any public road vantage point.

Cheniske said that the commission’s horizon-line map, which delineates ridgeline visibility from public roads at ground, not treetop level, shows the opposite. “If we wanted to feel good about approving this we would need our engineer to agree with [Johannesen] and essentially disprove the horizon-line map and say this house will definitely not stick above the ridge.”

The discussion was ultimately extended to next month’s regular meeting on September 10th to allow P&Z’s engineer to conduct an independent review.

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Local Matters

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The Lakeville Journal ■ The Millerton News

Harmony Junction  
Where the music takes you.

Shortly after WKZE was founded in Sharon in the late 1980’s, the station approached Oblong Books as a possible advertising client. Unwilling to part with cash at that point, Dick Hermans and Holly Nelson proposed creating a radio show in return for advertising. **Harmony Junction was born.**

The Millerton News and The Lakeville Journal congratulate **Dick**, our 2026 Estabrook Community Leadership honoree, who continues hosting his weekly program nearly 40 years later, live from 98.1 KZE’s studios in Red Hook.

**Harmony Junction is every Saturday morning from 9 to 11** and features an eclectic blend of acoustic folk, bluegrass, Celtic and related musical genres contributing to the station’s notable musical diversity.



**You may have heard Dick before...**  
For several years, Dick also did a similar show, “The Borderline,” on Robin Hood Radio. Those programs were recorded and are rebroadcast every **Tuesday at 8 pm** and **Saturday at 6 pm**, on **WHDD 91.9**.

The Millerton News | The Lakeville Journal  
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# OBITUARIES

## Patrick Mahoney

SHARON — Patrick Mahoney, a beloved husband, father, brother, and friend, passed away peacefully on Aug. 1, 2026, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Born on July 31, 1957, in Sharon, Connecticut, Pat was the cherished son of the late William and Mary Mahoney.

Pat's journey through life was marked by his passion for craftsmanship and the joy he found in working with his hands. A proud graduate of Oliver Wolcott Technical High School, he honed his skills in carpentry, a trade that became not just his career but his calling. Pat's work ranged from constructing custom cabinets and doors to building complete houses, each project infused with his dedication and precision. Later in life, he brought his meticulous nature and talent to an auto body shop, where he continued to create and restore with the same fervor he had for woodworking.

Pat was a man of many interests, but his heart truly belonged to classic cars. An enthusiast through and through, he poured countless hours into restoring a 1935 Dodge hot rod and later, his pride and joy, a 1957 Ford Custom 300, which he lovingly brought to perfection shortly before his passing. His passion for cars was matched only by his love for animals, and he was known to rescue and care for any creature in need.

Those who had the privilege of knowing Pat will

remember him for his kindness, his infectious sense of humor, and his unwavering love for his family. He shared a beautiful life with his wife, Kim Mahoney, who remained his steadfast partner through every high and low. Pat was a devoted father to his daughter, Erin Mahoney, whose happiness was always his highest priority. He also leaves behind his brother, Michael Mahoney, with whom he shared many memories and adventures.

In the hearts of his family and friends, Pat will forever be remembered for his gentle spirit and the warmth he brought to every room he entered. His legacy is one of love, laughter, and an enduring commitment to those he held dear.

A private funeral ceremony was held to honor Pat's life, in accordance with the family's wishes. In lieu of flowers, those who wish to honor Pat's memory are invited to make a donation to a charity of their choice, reflecting his generous spirit and his wish to make the world a better place.

Though Pat has left this world, his spirit endures in the lives he touched and the memories he created. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew him.

A celebration of Pat's life will be held at a later date. Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home 118 Main St. Canaan, CT 06018.

## Stephen M. Brandt

LAKEVILLE — Stephen Brandt passed away in the evening hours of Friday Aug. 14, 2026 in the Sharon Hospital Emergency room.

A complete obituary and service details will be in next week's Lakeville Journal.



## Charles Ray Rigdon

Edward R. Hamilton, Book-seller in Danbury. He was the company's first employee and served for many years as a book buyer and copywriter.

Ray, 26, met his future husband, Garth Kobal, 18, in the spring of 1983 at a gay bar in North Salem, New York. Garth had just graduated from Bethel High School. They moved in together late that summer.

In 1984, Hamilton relocated from Danbury to Falls Village. Ray asked Garth to join him and the couple took up home at the village's railway depot, historically the station master's quarters.

Curious to learn more about the bookselling business, the couple moved to New York City in the fall of 1987 residing in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Bedford-Stuyvesant, and Jersey City until 2006. Initially working for a book wholesaler on Madison Avenue, Ray co-founded a gay and lesbian book wholesale company with Garth located in an artist's live/workspace building in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn.

Successful for a couple of years, the couple decided they didn't really care for running a business and relocated back to Manhattan where Ray worked for book importer, Books Britain, while Garth was hired back by Hamilton to expand the company's relations with

AMENIA — William (Bill) O'Connell died peacefully surrounded by family at Sharon Hospital on Aug. 12, 2026, due to complications of cancer. Bill was born into a large Irish Catholic family in Bay Shore, New York, on March 3, 1964.

After Bill completed kindergarten, the family moved upstate, settling on Depot Hill in Amenia, New York, where he was a lifelong resident. He attended Catholic School at Immaculate Conception, transferring to Webutuck Middle School in the sixth grade. He graduated from Webutuck High School in 1982.

As a child he was an avid (obsessed) fisherman, asking for a new fishing pole every year for his birthday. He was given permission to skip school every opening day of fishing season. He cherished fond memories of growing up as a "Depot Hill Gang" member. He enjoyed playing soccer, basketball, and baseball throughout high school. While hitchhiking home from his job as a life-guard at the Millerton Town Pool, good looks and charm got him discovered. First as a print model, then as an actor in eleven television commercials and as an extra in a couple of movies. Anyone who knew him at that time was fair game for a ride to the train station or directly into the city for the many auditions he went to. He was a painter by trade, working in partnership with his brother Michael, at O'Connell Painting for many years serving the tri-state area. Bill was adventurous, loved to travel, and spent several months on a walk-a-bout through Australia and New Zealand. Bill was always up for a concert, a Giants game, or picking the freshest berries on the way to a cool fishing spot. He was well known locally at many recreational leagues



for indoor soccer, darts, pool, cards, and golf. He was quite a competitor at everything he enjoyed. Bill and Michael organized the annual O'Connell Paint Can Open for many years, with loyal enthusiasts flying in to attend year after year. In the latter years, complications from multiple ailments made his life increasingly difficult, dulling his natural shine. The bright spot of that time was how patient and attentive he was while caring for his mother, Frankie. Being present in her daily life so she could remain at home. This obituary was lovingly composed by his siblings, who loved him dearly.

Bill was predeceased by his parents, John & Evelyn O'Connell, and is survived by his three siblings; Karen Grimaldi (Mark) of Salisbury, Connecticut, Michael O'Connell of Florida, and Kathleen Lacko of Casper, Wyoming; two nieces and three nephews, Connor Washburn (Hannah), Mickaela Grimaldi, Liam Girmaldi, Kenny Lacko, and Marykate Lacko, dozens of cousins, and countless friends who will miss him tremendously.

A graveside service and burial will take place on Thursday, Aug., 20, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Amenia, New York. Rev. Andrew O'Connor will officiate. A reception in Bill's honor will follow at the Amenia Steakhouse. Memorial contributions may be made to the Amenia Fire Company & Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 166, Amenia, NY 12501. To send an online condolence to the family, flowers to the service or to plant a tree in Bill's memory please visit [www.conklinfuneral.com](http://www.conklinfuneral.com) Arrangements have been entrusted to Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546.

itics – adding a late-life passion for soccer. His favorite football clubs were Liverpool and Manchester United. In the last several years, if a match was on then Ray was watching it, sometimes several at once.

Ray was a stoic. He never let on about how he felt physically and never sat in judgment of anyone he knew personally. He had an immense capacity to show tenderness with family, friends, strangers, and significantly with animals. He loved and cared for several dogs over the years, especially Joe the Shar-pei and Emmy the Bulldog, a couple that mirrored Ray and Garth, one protective and introspective, the other outgoing and social. To the very end, if a dog visited the house, they would head directly to Ray and lay at his feet.

Ray is survived by his husband Garth Kobal and his siblings Talmadge Rigdon, Sonja Rigdon, Phyllis Moyes, Patty Tate, David Rigdon and countless in-laws, nephews, nieces and cousins in the Rigdon and Kobal families. He is pre-deceased by his beloved sisters Helen Spivey and de-facto family matriarch, Mary Dimples Freeman.

In lieu of flowers and cards, memorial donations may be made in his name to David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main Street, Falls Village 06031 or at [huntlibrary.org](http://huntlibrary.org).

## Joyce Gertrude Cassetta

MILLBROOK — Joyce Gertrude (Kirstein) Cassetta of Millbrook, 96, passed away peacefully on Monday, Aug. 10 at Maplewood. Joyce was born Sept. 15, 1930, in Ossining New York to Ethel (Travis) and Franz Kirstein.



She was the second eldest of 6 children, and the only member of her family to graduate high school. Joyce married Michael A. Cassetta (deceased) of Tarrytown in 1950. Joyce and Mike built

their first home in East Irvington where they raised their family. Joyce was an outstanding cook, avid gardener, enjoyed curling and ice skating. Joyce also served over 50 years in the Eastern Star. She is survived by 3 of her 4 children, 3 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. She has one surviving sister, Shirley. Our deepest gratitude to those who cared for her, especially her son Mark. Joyce will be laid to rest at Hillside Cemetery.

## Celebration of Life

### Pieter A. Van Why

Family and friends are invited to a Celebration of Life honoring Pieter A. Van Why, who passed away on April 11, 2026.

The celebration will be held Saturday, August 22, from 1 to evening at Norbrook Farms Brewery, 204 Stillman Hill Road, Colebrook, CT.

This will be an informal gathering to remember Pieter the way he would have wanted – with good friends, laughter and plenty of memories.

Please stop by and help us celebrate a life that meant so much to so many.

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



## Worship Services

Week of August 23, 2026

**Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon**  
9 South Main, Sharon CT  
Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M.  
Transitioning through prayer  
All welcome to join us  
860-364-5260  
[www.christchurchsharon.org](http://www.christchurchsharon.org)

**Trinity Episcopal Church**  
484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville  
Offering companionship along the Way  
Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.  
Livestream at 10:30 found at [www.trinitylimerock.org](http://www.trinitylimerock.org)  
[trinity@trinitylimerock.org](mailto:trinity@trinitylimerock.org)  
(860) 435-2627

**North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC**  
Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people  
172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT  
Worship services Sundays at 10 am  
[www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational](http://www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational)  
860-824-7232  
**FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH**  
Is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan  
Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm  
[www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org](http://www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org)

**Congregation Beth David**  
A reform Jewish Synagogue  
3344 East Main St., Amenia  
**SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM**  
Twice Monthly - Followed by Oneg (Calendar at [congbethdavid.org](http://congbethdavid.org))  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**  
Rabbi Jon Haddon  
845-373-8264  
[info@congbethdavid.org](mailto:info@congbethdavid.org)

**The Lakeville United Methodist Church**  
319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039  
10 a.m. Worship Service  
"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"  
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse  
860-435-9496  
[Lakevillemethodist@snet.net](mailto:Lakevillemethodist@snet.net)

**Falls Village Congregational Church**  
16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village  
10:00 a.m. Family Worship  
Coffee Hour  
A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!!  
860-824-0194

**The Sharon United Methodist Church**  
112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green  
Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits  
9 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care  
No Sunday School in Summer  
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse  
860-364-5634  
[sharonumc5634@att.net](mailto:sharonumc5634@att.net)

**The Smithfield Presbyterian Church**  
656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 85, Amenia, NY  
Services every Sunday 10 a.m.  
[www.thesmithfieldchurch.org](http://www.thesmithfieldchurch.org)  
21st Century Theology in an Historic Building

**All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church**  
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Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M.  
Special Services Online  
Rev. John Kreta  
860-824-1340 | [allsaintsofamerica.us](http://allsaintsofamerica.us)

**Sharon Congregational**  
25 Main Street, Sharon, CT  
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.  
Visit our website [sharoncongregationalchurch.org](http://sharoncongregationalchurch.org) for Sunday services  
Contact us at 860-364-5002 or [info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org](mailto:info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org)

**The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.**  
30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT  
Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!  
Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming  
[www.salisburyucc.org](http://www.salisburyucc.org)  
Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy!  
(860) 435-2442

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT  
**SUNDAY SERVICE**  
10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)  
Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge  
In-Person and on You-Tube  
[www.stjohnssalisbury.org](http://www.stjohnssalisbury.org)

**ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH**  
Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk  
St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan  
St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville  
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Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary  
Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church  
**DAILY MASS SCHEDULE**  
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St. Joseph Chapel or Church  
Thursday 8am  
Immaculate Conception Church  
Friday 8am  
Church of St. Mary  
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[www.uccincornwall.org](http://www.uccincornwall.org)  
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Lower River Road, West Cornwall  
in person and on zoom  
Warm fellowship following service  
All Are Welcome!  
[www.allsaintscornwall.org](http://www.allsaintscornwall.org)  
Rev. Mary Gates

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**  
40 Leedsville Road  
Amenia Union, NY  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP at 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE**  
Visit our website for links  
845-373-9161  
[www.stthomasamenia.com](http://www.stthomasamenia.com)  
A Community of Radical Hospitality

**Promised Land Baptist Church**  
29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT  
Where you will find: A Warm Welcome!  
Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow!  
Sunday School - 10am  
Sunday Worship - 11am  
Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM  
(860) 824-5685  
**VISITORS WELCOME!**  
[www.promisedlandbaptist.org](http://www.promisedlandbaptist.org)

**Canaan United Methodist Church**  
2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT  
11:00AM - Worship Service  
"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"  
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse  
860-824-5534  
[canaanct-umc.com](mailto:canaanct-umc.com)  
[canaanctumc@gmail.com](mailto:canaanctumc@gmail.com)  
We hope you will join us!

For another obituary, see page A4

LET'S HEAR IT...

THIS WEEK

From Route 44 projects in Norfolk and Salisbury to sidewalk and road construction in Sharon, several projects are underway across the region. With detours, changing traffic patterns and other work along busy routes, construction can affect how residents get around from day to day.

Has construction in our region impacted your daily travel? Have delays changed your daily routes or plans? Or have you noticed little to no difference?

Send your responses to social@lakevillejournal.com by Monday, Aug. 24 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 book has been your favorite summer read and why did you like it?

"Two books that have really stayed with me this summer: Strangers by Belle Burden — a heartbreaking, and empowering memoir. And Yesteryear by Caro Claire Burke — completely addictive and couldn't put it down. Two very different reads, but both definitely made my summer favorites list!"

—Emily Peterson

"Yesteryear" by Caro Claire Burke - I had never heard of the phrase "tradwife" before picking up "Yesteryear." I typically relish books that include the phrase "perfect life" in their synopsis and take them up to uncover what's really going on behind closed doors. This particular one made my jaw drop multiple times at just how low a person can sink in trying to cultivate a perfect life for appearances. There were times I read lines aloud to my husband to get his reaction to the protagonist's vindictiveness. As for the plot twist, I can count on one hand how many times an ending was perfectly tailored to a character's comeuppance, and "Yesteryear" succeeds."

—Kaitlin Keane

"The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah. Excellent WWII story."

—Emily Olson

"I was deeply moved by Ann Patchett's, Whistler. She is so skilled at writing complicated human relationships, finding humor in her character's imperfections, and treating them with kindness. The father /daughter love story between main characters, Eddie and Daphne, is one I will be thinking about for a long time. Make sure you have Kleenex!"

—Michelle Charles

"Yesteryear! Witty, alarming, and entertaining, with a bit of a mysterious twist mixed in."

—Kate Seabury

Suffer the children

"The picture of the world's richest man killing the world's poorest children is not a pretty one," Bill Gates on Elon Musk, May, 2025

OPEN SPACE KATHY HERALD-MARLOWE

Lifesaving food and medicines were denied internationally as DOGE, Musk, irradiated the US Agency for International Development – slashed it, irrevocably as it also cancelled grants to hospitals that helped women from transmitting HIV to their babies.

Musk, no longer chain-sawing domestic and international policies and grants, has lately, in The Economist July interview, acknowledged the pace and suddenness of his DOGE cuts of funding and long-time initiatives likely caused unnecessary "friction." Oddly, Musk continued that the Gates Foundation should have stepped in to bridge the negatives when he, Musk, went "too fast." Gates should have saved Musk and the world from his acts although in 2012, Musk, along with a cadre of ultra wealthies, signed the Giving Pledge: to contribute at least 50% of their wealth to charity in or after their lifetimes. Musk had his own deep pockets,

In the same Economist interview, Musk vehemently claimed 0.0 children died as a result of his USAID actions though multiple agencies report 700,000+ child victims/deaths have been counted

as arising from the pull out of USAID medicines, foods, aids – adults add hundreds of thousands more.

Adamantly anti-government handouts, the wealthiest person on the planet is behold to the US for a king's ransom. Over the first two decades of Musk ventures, the US government provided him over \$38 billion in the form of loans, tax credits, subsidies, manufacturing incentives, and regulatory credits – add to this his 52 ongoing US contracts. DOGE would more appropriately stand for Dependent on Government Enrichments. Billionaires are up globally to 3,482 – increasing at an ever-faster clip. Just 700 of the 1200 US billionaires have a combined net wealth exceeding the worth of the entire bottom half of Americans (165 million).

Mark, Matthew, and Luke all have scripture with Christ's plea to "Suffer the Children" -include them, bring them forth, forbid them not. However, since January, 2025, children abroad have suffered as have domestic children robbed of grants, precluded from policies already passed for their well-fare and growth – food, education, health.

The spectacular cruelty and corruption of Musk, DOGE, aligns well with the maneuvers fostered against children by Robert F. Kennedy Jr\* regarding children's health: deaths from measles (94% unvaccinated kids), the falsehoods about vaccines and autism, the shredding of health and environmental regulations, and stark reductions/cancellations of research by the 10's of million\$ for children – moneys already appropriated by Congress. Measles in the US were eradicated in 2000 and gifted back to the US by RFJ Jr with 4,800 deaths in 2025-2026. After famously ranting against the evils of vaccines, RFJ Jr now admits that he and his six children are all, totally vaccinated –none with autism. Backpedaling on the MMR vaccine (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) as a measles outbreak skyrockets, RFK J is saying "A measles vaccine is effective, it stops measles in about 97% of cases. So people should get vaccinated." Not all are.

The "Big Beautiful Bill" made tax reductions from 2017 permanent while tax provisions favoring high-income households and corporations expanded. The bill's attractive benefits for the rich will be paid for primarily by reductions in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid, tax credits, clean air initiatives and student

loans. Free meals for children are denied to millions of low-income, poverty level families – children to go hungry to learn.

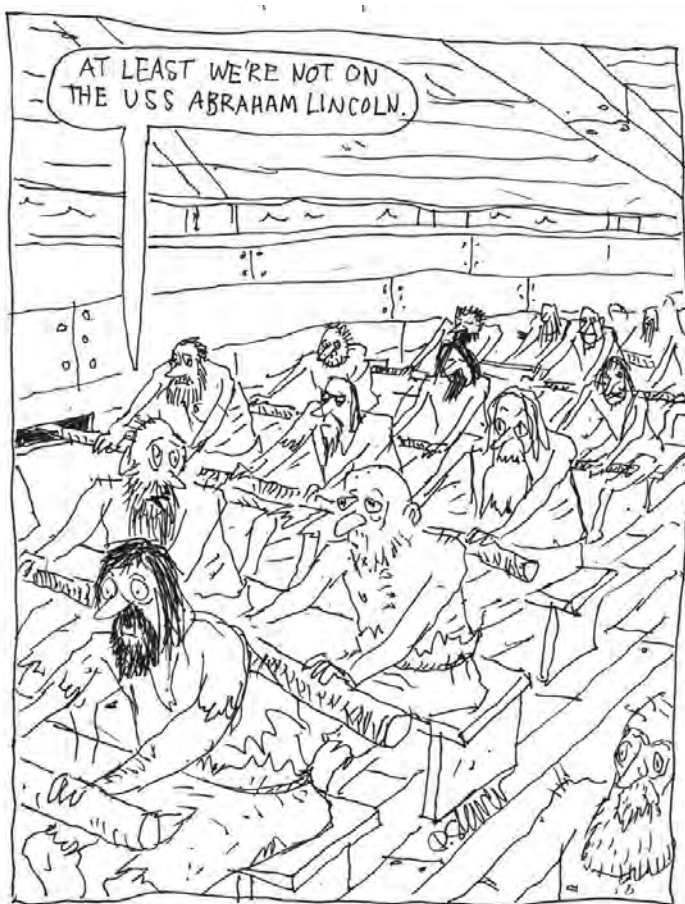
Erasing Head Start is Kennedy's next target as HHS removes 1,000 provisions for local and state control that regulated these highly effective programs. Structural changes for Head Start centers go into effect in October including removal of limits on class size, removal of routine annual health screenings, slashes to funding student expansion. Studies, over decades, indicate positives accrued: increased readiness for school, increased likelihood of completion of high school and attendance in college, lower poverty. Commencing in 1965, with Johnson's War on Poverty, Head Start has had 6 decades, 60 years, of positive impacts now negated by a Secretary\* unworthy of his name – a Junior so distance from a trio of Kennedy legends.

"You judge a society by how it treats its citizens. We must do our best to ensure that every child can live in comfort and security with the best possible education". Melania Trump

\*Bobby might share the same name as our father, but he does not share the same values, vision or judgment." RFK Junior siblings

Kathy Herald-Marlowe lives in Sharon.

Opinion



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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Speed at your own risk, not mine'

If I hadn't laughed at Richard Kopec's letter of August 12, 2026 about speed limits I would have been furious. Speed limits at 25 mph aren't solely for drivers and car traffic, they're for the safety of pedestrians and wildlife, especially on roads with no place to walk along the sides.

Last I checked, our bodies and those of animals are not any better built or more "sophisticated" than they were 70 years ago. The idea that we "accept certain numbers of accidents as a price we pay..." is not only dismissive of human life but it abrogates our society's responsibility to protect the well being of ALL

citizens from other including bad drivers. I do not advocate "big brother" cameras or attacks on our privacy as solutions, however – speed bumps, speed ditches and other physical impediments make far more sense.

The funny part of Mr. Kopec's proposal was speed limits as "suggestions"!

Speed limits are legal limits, period. Speed on our roads at your own risk, not mine. And good luck with state troupers when you try to talk your way out of a ticket saying 25mph is just a suggestion.

Robert Becker Cornwall

TURNING BACK THE PAGES NORMA BOSWORTH

125 years ago — August 1901

Speaking of street lights; one of our city visitors declared that the lights were so far apart that even the bugs get lost. Too bad, but we haven't a word to say. How long will it thus?

A spotted adder, measuring three and one-half feet, took refuge in the home of Charles Crosley, who lives on the Canaan mountain road, last week, while Crosley was at work in the hay field. Crosley first discovered his guest lying on a shelf. He dealt the reptile a heavy blow, where-upon it sprang at him, barely escaping his face. After smashing two chairs Crosley succeeded in killing the snake.

The bear finally disappeared from eastern Dutchess county; incidentally so have the berries. We should be (beary) thankful that we haven't been eaten up alive.

This is the season of the year when goo-goo eyes and white duck trousers are the proper thing.

SHARON — The Rev. Wm. Hutchinson is away on a fishing expedition for a week.

Grove Miller has entered

the employ of Harnessmaker Miller.

100 years ago — August 1926

Charles Millsbaugh is off duty at Roberts' Store, owing to a run down condition, which will necessitate a rest for a time from active duty.

Chester S. Thurston is in New London today as a delegate from Lakeville Hose Co. to the annual State Firemen's Convention.

ORE HILL — George Barnett of Naugatuck is visiting Morris Dennis at Pine Cone Camp.

50 years ago — August 1976

A campaign has been launched for public donations to equip a room at Sharon Hospital in honor of Dr. George Anderson Fowler, long-time Northwest Corner surgeon and one of the founders of the Sharon Clinic, who is retiring and moving to New Mexico. A testimonial for Dr. Fowler will be held on the Sharon Green on Sunday, Sept. 19, at 4 p.m. At that time it is hoped to present him with a document bearing the names of friends and patients who have contributed to the room at the hospital.

For the full "Turning Back the Pages," go to www.lakevillejournal.com

THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

(USPS 303280)

An Independent Connecticut Newspaper

Published Weekly by LJMN Media, Inc.

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

64 Route 7 North, Falls Village, CT 06031

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

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

Volume 130, Number 4

Thursday, August 13, 2026

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The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News

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

Our Towns

The team that keeps Mike’s Beehives buzzing

By Robin Roraback

GOSHEN — What do you do when yellow jackets invade a shed and defend it by stinging people and dogs who trespass? One solution is to call Mike’s Beehives in Goshen. With knowledge of all things bees, the company will relocate everything from honey bee swarms to hornet and yellow jacket nests.

Ed Bahr of Mike’s Beehives recently removed a yellow jacket nest from a local shed, dressing himself in protective gear and suctioning the insects into what’s known as a bee box. The process is designed to avoid harm to bees.

Not only does Bahr remove the bees from various locations, he saves the nests as part of an elaborate relocation process. Despite a couple stings to his legs, he remained cheerful and took the yellow jackets to a wooded area in northwest Connecticut.

Bahr said he has been working with bees since he was about five-years-old, when he began helping his father with beekeeping.

“My job was turning the handle on the honey extractor,” Bahr said. As he grew older, he would accompany his father on visits to the hives, learning by watching.

Eventually, Bahr partnered with and worked alongside Mike Rice, founder of Mike’s Beehives, and after learning more about bees, bee removal and how to build hives, he bought the business.

“Beekeeping has made a huge surge since Covid,” Bahr said, adding that gardens, canning produce, raising chickens, and keeping bees became popular after



PHOTO BY L. TOMAINO

Tom Pannullo, Chris Dunlop, and Ed and Kim Bahr of Mike’s Beehives, in their store at 80 Holmes Road in Goshen. With them is a honeycomb that a bear pulled from a tree in Sharon at Mudge Pond. The team was called to save and relocate the hive.

the COVID-19 pandemic. Chickens seem to be declining, he said, but beekeeping is still “going strong.”

In addition to bee swarm removal and hive maintenance services, Bahr’s team — including his wife, Kim, Tom Pannullo and Chris Dunlop — offers a variety of products. From beekeeping tools, handmade artisan hives, bees themselves and local raw honey, their store on 80 Holmes Road in Goshen is a one-stop-shop for aspiring beekeepers.

Classes on beekeeping are also offered in February and March and are taught by Bahr himself.

“I’ve taught hundreds of people,” he said.

They sell honey from their own hives and also lip balm and salves, made from the beeswax that results from honey extraction. Books about honey and bees are also available. On the

second floor of the store is a viewing room where visitors can observe bees through glass as they work.

Beyond the shop’s walls, more than 100 honey bee hives can be found on the property.

Bahr, Dunlop, and Pannullo recently removed a de-

nervousness and that puts them on alert. I talk to them calmly. They can’t hear you, but they feel the vibration.”

He described beekeeping as being peaceful. “When working with bees, you are entering their world, and it is very soothing and calming. The vibration from the

wings, the wax smell, the movement of the bees. It’s all very relaxing,” he said.

The bee language involves the “wag tail dance,” Bahr said.

“Bees have no ears and can’t talk. Communication is done by vibration and scent.”

When a bee returns to the hive, “it shakes its back end, turns and shakes, turns and shakes, to tell the others the directions to find clover, an orchard, or wherever there is nectar and pollen.”

He added, “They pick up on that vibration. They feel it through their feet in the honeycomb.”

For more information, visit mikesbeehivesllc.com.

“When you are working with bees, you are entering their world. The vibration from the wings, the wax smell, the movement of the bees. It’s all very relaxing.”

Ed Bahr, Owner of Mike’s Beehives

cadec-old honeybee colony from a tree at Mudge Pond in Sharon after a bear had ripped out a large section of honeycomb. They relocated the bees to Goshen. A video of the procedure, taken by Dunlop is on view at the store.

Everyone at Mike’s Beehives seems to enjoy their work, in spite of the hazards of being stung. Bahr emphasized that a calm attitude is necessary in beekeeping. “They can sense fear and

Historic festival boasts period costumes and tales from a one-room schoolhouse

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The year-long celebration of America’s 250th anniversary continued in Falls Village on Saturday, Aug. 15, with a bustling downtown and volunteers dressed in Colonial-era garb at a festival hosted by the Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society.

Highlights included reenactors, house tours, horse-drawn carriage rides and music.

Shortly after the event kicked off, the Historical Society’s Judy Jacobs rolled out from the Society’s headquarters on Railroad Street behind the wheel of a modern-day utility vehicle while dressed in period costume.

Jacobs made her way up to the Beebe Hill Schoolhouse, where Krista Barger and Tanya Golden delivered lessons on writing in cursive with a quill pen to a group of students.

Everyone was in period costume and character, except for a couple of moments when the teachers added some contemporary context for the child actors or visitors crowded into the tiny schoolhouse.

Golden said the one-room schoolhouse served students in kindergarten through eighth grade from 1843 to 1914. Its largest enrollment was 51 students.

Golden told the children

that Beebe Hill was staffed almost exclusively by single women who boarded with local families.

The one exception was a male teacher who was allegedly strict and unpopular. The teacher was so disliked, volunteers said, that the boys decided the best course of action was to gang up on him and throw him out the window.

“That window,” said Golden, pointing to the north side of the building.

Some wondered about the fate of the strict and unpopular male teacher.

“He didn’t die,” Golden said. “But he didn’t come back either.”

At the Green, Marlin-spike – a musical group consisting of Rachel Gall on fiddle, Cole Vanseters on guitar and Dan Whelan on banjo and vocals – started their set with a spirited rendition of “Paul Jones’ Victory.”

A horse-drawn carriage clopped by en route to pick up passengers farther up Main Street, while visitors ambled over to the Historical Society for reenactors and demonstrations. The Center on Main hosted a program on Alexander Hamilton later in the afternoon, and students from Lee H. Kellogg School sold drinks and snacks to raise money for the eighth grade class trip to Washington, D.C.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society volunteer Cornelia Jacquier greets visitors at the David M. Hunt Library during the Historical Festival on Aug. 15.

Salisbury Community Dog Park

107 Long Pond Road, Lakeville

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ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, August 29, 2026

10:00 AM

Everyone Welcome



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

‘It’s about dam time,’ reads one of the cheeky display cards at a new exhibit on rewilding at the Salisbury Association, now on view.

Salisbury Association opens environmental exhibit on rewilding

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — A new exhibit at the Salisbury Association explores ways to reintroduce native plants, animals and landscapes to the region.

“Rewilding” looks at conservation efforts large and small, including steps homeowners can take on their own properties.

For “small landscapes” such as gardens and backyards, homeowners can remove invasive plants and replace them with native flowering plants, shrubs and trees.

Other measures include adding window stickers that are visible to birds but unobtrusive to people inside, helping to reduce avian crashes into homes.

Minimizing outdoor lighting also cuts down on light pollution that impacts insects, and not allowing cats to roam freely protects the bird and small rodent populations.

The exhibit text points out that a century ago, northwest Connecticut was largely deforested as a result of trees being cut for agriculture and for the charcoal and iron industries. As a result, only

about one to three percent of the local forest is truly “old growth.”

Land trusts, including the Salisbury Association Land Trust, have been acquiring undeveloped properties in an effort to reconnect forest habitats with each other. The “Follow the Forest” initiative, for example, is a multi-state program that connects forested areas from the Hudson Highlands to the Canadian border.

The exhibit covers river bank and aquatic habitat restoration efforts by groups such as the Housatonic Valley Association and Trout Unlimited. This includes removing old dams and fixing culverts so that fish and other animals can move freely from one side of a stream that runs under a road to the other.

And, the exhibit covers the reintroduction of native animals, such as the New England cottontail rabbit, which has been largely supplanted by a lookalike species, the Eastern cottontail rabbit.

A reception for the exhibit will be held at the Salisbury Association building at 24 Main St. in Salisbury on Friday, Sept. 4, from 4 to 6 p.m.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Children clad in Colonial-era fashion received a lesson in cursive writing from a pair of teachers in the Beebe Hill Schoolhouse on Saturday, Aug. 15.

Realtor® at Large

Interestedly enough, by taking a wrong turn off of Route 8 north of Winsted, I was led to a remarkable discovery: the Colebrook River Dam, which is spectacular! One drives down a narrow road on top of the dam with both sides falling away hundreds of feet on either side. This dam was built by the Army Corps of engineers back in the 60’s and they still manage it. The dam is used for flood control and for recreational purposes, such as boating and fishing. The views are remarkable! For more information, please visit: [www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Colebrook-River-Lake/](http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Colebrook-River-Lake/)

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ADVERTISEMENT

MUSIC

Continued from Page A1

with the trip down to New York City or over to New Haven just to see some of his favorite bands perform. So he resolved to bring them up to the Northwest Corner.

First, he built a little stage on his property in West Cornwall, where he invited friends to see live music in the woods. It went well, but the potential to share the musical magic was limited. Then, in 2025, Sampson teamed up with Will Schenk and Michael Cesari at the Cornwall Market.

When Schenk bought the Market, there was already a bowl shape that had been carved into the land. All they had to do was bring the music. Sampson and local musician Eddie Dahill of the band Ruby Leftstep started inviting local and city bands, including Matt Iwanusa of RIP Dunes. Iwanusa, who lives in Brooklyn, relishes the chance to come up to the Northwest Corner for a breath of our fresh air.

This summer, the team decided to get serious about the project, officially naming it the Cornwall Music Bowl and getting a big assist from Ronnie Lianza of Chimney Rock Construction, who donated the stage. This year



PHOTOS BY ALY MORRISSEY

marks the first full summer of programming, and the shows are free. The project is funded by private donations, as well as financial and space support from the Cornwall Market. While the Market itself is closed during the events, Cesari is enthusias-

tic about the robust drink offerings and fresh oysters they fly in from Maine.

While the summer programming will close at the end of September, the group is looking into ways to keep the party going by hosting off-season concerts, movies and maybe even other types of performances.

See the rest of the schedule, and keep up with the project at [cornwallmarket.com/cornwall-music-bowl](http://cornwallmarket.com/cornwall-music-bowl).



Music industry veteran Chris Sampson, the mastermind behind the Cornwall Music Bowl, introduces main act Ruby Leftstep on Aug. 15.

The New Hartford-based band brings the energy with original songs and a few covers.

STATION

Continued from Page A1

figuration of the train station, roadway and parking for the businesses create a “choke point.”

“You’ve got kids, bicycles, parking, traffic from the Grove. It’s kind of chaotic.”

Moving the station back “will let the area breathe,” Rand added.

The State Historic Preservation Office paid for two studies of the building. Rand said the station is generally “in good shape, but the basement is kind of tired.”

When updates are complete, Rand said, people will see three courses of brick, which was the original look of the building when it was first constructed in the 1880s. When possible, the contractor will use the original bricks.

Based on the SHPO studies, the project was put out to bid, with three project estimates coming in at \$500,000, \$611,000 and \$618,000. Rand said the selectmen chose the \$611,000 bid from Burlington Construction Company, a Torrington-based business the town has worked with before.

Rand said his next step will be to discuss financing

the project with the Board of Finance. He said the town has money set aside for the move and renovations, but details need to be confirmed.

After that, the matter must go to a town meeting. Rand said Burlington Construction wants to start work this fall, so a town meeting will likely be called for early September.

In public comment, Nancy Van Deusen questioned the \$611,00 cost, and suggested that adding plantings as barriers could mitigate the truck and traffic problems.

Commissioner Heidi Holter said she thought the plan was a good solution from the preservation standpoint. “A building in use is a better maintained building.”

Rand added that once the building is moved, SHPO will pay for a full restoration. Ultimately, the currently unoccupied building could be used as a town facility or by a nonprofit organization, Rand added.

The commission voted unanimously to approve the plan and a yet-to-be-scheduled town meeting will likely take place in September to determine next steps.



Music lovers flock to the Cornwall Music Bowl on Saturday, Aug. 15, to hear live music in the new venue.



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## our community



PHOTO BY ANNETTE STOVER  
Jeremy Boviard, General Manager at the Moviehouse in Millerton.

### More than movies

## Jeremy Boviard found his calling at The Moviehouse

By Richard Feiner  
And Annette Stover

**M**ore than movies: Jeremy Boviard found his calling at The Moviehouse. Spend a few minutes talking with Jeremy Boviard about movies and you're likely to forget what time it is. Ask about a favorite film and he'll happily explain the first time he saw it, how it was made and why it matters. One story leads to another. His enthusiasm is infectious. For Boviard, movies are far more than entertainment – they're one of the best ways

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

## ART

## A nomadic art gallery finds a home in Bantam

By D.H. Callahan

On Saturday, Aug. 22, Friday Arts will open its new gallery in the Bantam Arts Factory. In the summer of 2025, former Guggenheim Museum head of digital Laura Kleger and her husband, award-winning filmmaker Justin Schwarz, opened a gallery ... kind of. When we usually think of galleries, we might conjure the image of white walls lined with art and littered with sculptures. Some of us might think outside the box and visualize barns and industrial towers, like at the Wassaic Project, or Millerton's Re Institute. But Friday Arts, as Schwarz and Kleger called it, thought of the space as secondary. To them, the main idea is to display and promote art and the artists who make it. In that endeavor, they've done a whole lot in a single year, including hosting 11 exhibitions, collaborating with 15 artists and producing eight original films, all without a permanent home. They've done it at a series of

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

## INSIDE

**OUR TOWNS**  
Robert Cronin, 90, reflects on career as an artist and a brush with Picasso

**CALENDAR**  
A list of upcoming events



## MUSIC

## Benjamin Franklin's glass armonica comes to the Berkshire Opera Festival

By D.H. Callahan

In the early 1760s, Benjamin Franklin was one of the most popular people in the world. The writer, printer, inventor and electricity pioneer was known throughout the British Colonies in America, as well as in Europe, as a respected intellectual and diplomat. While we know him as one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, he spent almost a third of his life in Europe. Eight of those years were spent in France, working to secure support from the French military during the Revolutionary War. But before that, he spent 18 years in England as a diplomatic representative from the colonies.

It was during that time when Franklin first witnessed a musician play a series of glass bowls in a style closer to a piano, simply by moving his fingers. Franklin called his new invention the armonica, after the Italian word for harmony, "armonia," and was known to play it for friends and visitors. For somebody whose name is synonymous with money, his face famously gracing the \$100 bill, Franklin wasn't quite as capitalistically minded as one might expect. He declined to patent the invention, instead allowing other instrument fabricators to make their own without paying him fees. Possibly due to his altruism, the armonica caught on, with pieces

the larger ones. Now, instead of reaching all around a table, the musician could play the bowls in a style closer to a piano, simply by moving his fingers. Franklin called his new invention the armonica, after the Italian word for harmony, "armonia," and was known to play it for friends and visitors. For somebody whose name is synonymous with money, his face famously gracing the \$100 bill, Franklin wasn't quite as capitalistically minded as one might expect. He declined to patent the invention, instead allowing other instrument fabricators to make their own without paying him fees. Possibly due to his altruism, the armonica caught on, with pieces



PHOTO BY DENNIS JAMES

Dennis James plays the glass armonica in Colonial costume.

written for it by such compositional legends as Mozart and Beethoven. Now, the instrument is coming to Great Barrington as part of the Berkshire Opera Festival. For its 10th anniversary, the festival is presenting "Lucia di Lammermoor" by Italian composer Gaetano Donizetti. The opera, which will be performed in its original Italian, is one of the most prominent works in the "bel canto" style. The term "bel canto" translates to "beautiful voice," but today, the style can be best summed up as a more dramatic style, allowing performers to match their vocal tones to subjects or moods. This essentially lets the singers act with their voices

through song. The opera is most commonly performed with a flute solo, but the Festival chose to enlist the armonica, as was originally called for by Donizetti. To play it, BOF is bringing in multi-instrumentalist Dennis James, who has already demonstrated his armonica skills to Berkshire audiences at the American premiere of George Benjamin's opera "Written on Skin" at Tanglewood in 2013. "Lucia di Lammermoor" will run at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington on Saturday, Aug. 22; Tuesday, Aug. 25; and Friday, Aug. 28. For tickets and more information, visit [berkshireoperafestival.org/](http://berkshireoperafestival.org/)

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## COMMUNITY

## The mycelial web of nature, creativity, science and magic at Berkshire Mushroom Festival

By Natalia Zukerman

"Mycelium is Earth's natural Internet," says mycologist Paul Stamets. He also calls fungi "the grand recyclers of the planet" and says, "Fungi are the interface organisms between life and death."

If that sounds like a pretty good argument for paying more attention to what's happening under your feet, the Berkshire Mushroom Festival is hosting a weekend made for you. On Aug. 22 and 23, Tam Integration, an online psychedelic community organization, and Lee, Massachusetts-based dispensary Sweetgrass Botanicals will bring together foragers, cultivators, scientists, artists, cooks and curious humans at Dewey Hall in Sheffield, Massachusetts, for a weekend devoted to the remarkable world of mushrooms.

Stamets' books, including "Mycelium Running: How Mushrooms Can Help Save the World," have helped inspire a broader fascination with the

funeral kingdom, from the role of mycelium in forest ecosystems to the potential of mushrooms in medicine and environmental restoration. Similarly, Michael Pollan's "How to Change Your Mind" introduced millions of

readers to the history and revival of psychedelic research, including scientific investigations into psilocybin, the psychoactive compound found in certain mushrooms. Pollan's reporting has helped illuminate

a field that had moved from the counterculture into laboratories and serious conversations about consciousness and mental health.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4



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### WBSL FM 91.7

Serving North Canaan, CT, Sheffield and South County, MA

... Jeremy Boviard

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

people connect.

That passion has made him the perfect steward of The Moviehouse in Millerton, where, as general manager, he has helped transform the nonprofit theater into a vibrant community gathering place.

“I like bringing people together to share something,” he said. “People come here to enjoy themselves, to learn about the world and themselves, and we’re here to facilitate and enhance that experience as much as possible.”

His path to The Moviehouse, however, wasn’t one he could have imagined.

Raised in Newton, Massachusetts, Boviard grew up immersed in musical theater and developed an early love of cinema. Some of his first memories involve movies. As a toddler, he insisted on watching “E.T.” before deciding the opening scenes were too scary. Today, it’s one of his all-time favorites. He also wore out a VHS recording of the television broadcast of “The Wizard of Oz,” commercials and all.

Cinema was a family affair. His mother, a preschool teacher, would even mail him Siskel and Ebert’s “thumbs up” and “thumbs down” movie reviews while he was away at summer camp, to keep him in the loop.

“I’ve always loved talking about movies,” he said.

After studying communications and media at Northeastern University, Boviard explored a variety of careers. Then, in 2016, his life took an unexpected turn.

He came to northwest Connecticut seeking treatment for alcoholism at Mountainside Treatment Center in Canaan, expecting to stay for only a month or two.

Instead, he found a new beginning.

Nearly a decade later, Boviard remains sober and speaks openly about the experience that changed his life.

“It’s a big part of my identity,” he said. “It’s more than not drinking or doing drugs;



Jeremy Boviard and the team have expanded concessions at The Moviehouse.

PHOTO BY ANNETTE STOVER

“There’s something special about sharing a story in a room full of other people.”

JEREMY BOVIARD

it’s about having integrity and being open to others.”

After completing treatment, he stayed in the area and joined the Mountainside staff, eventually becoming a client services lead during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The work was demanding, requiring compassion, flexibility and resilience.

“It helped me become — not the best version of myself, because I’m not perfect — but I feel stable and happy with my life in ways that 10 years ago I did not,” he said. “It’s the beginning of a lifelong journey.”

That same outlook shapes the way he approaches his work today.

When friends learned The Moviehouse was looking for a general manager after reopening in 2021, they immediately thought of Boviard. Running an

independent movie theater had long been one of his dream jobs.

“It felt like a perfect fit,” he said, “and I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity that [Moviehouse Chair and Vice Chair] Chelsea Altman and David Maltby have given me.”

His days rarely look the same. He helps choose films, organizes special events, oversees fundraising and educational programs, manages staff schedules and payroll, orders supplies — and, if necessary, teaches new team members to change the soda fountain syrup, as he did in the middle of this interview: “There are plenty of moments where you’re doing a little bit of everything.”

He credits Assistant General Manager Tom Cloutier, Public Relations and Marketing Director Helen Seslowsky, and the rest of the team for creating a culture built on trust and teamwork.

“When I’m not here physically, I trust that the people who are here are handling everything well,” he said. “That’s a really good place to be.”

Under Boviard’s leadership, The Moviehouse has expanded well beyond first-run films. Triv-

ia nights, filmmaker discussions, live performances, after-school filmmaking programs and community partnerships have become part of its identity.

His goal is to offer something streaming services can’t.

“There’s something special about sharing a story in a room full of other people,” he said.

In an age when so much entertainment is experienced alone, Boviard believes the real magic of the movies is not confined to the screen. It’s found in the shared experience of watching together, lights dimming and a community discovering, for a couple of hours, that great stories are better when they’re shared.

That commitment extends beyond the theater. As co-chair of the Millerton Business Alliance, Boviard helps organize community events, including free holiday movie screenings and Festival of Lights activities.

He says he still finds himself struck by the quiet beauty of the region he unexpectedly came to call home.

Asked what advice he would give his younger self, Boviard doesn’t talk about career success or favorite films.

Instead, he offered a lesson earned through experience.

“Life’s full of surprises, and things often won’t play out how you expect,” he said. “If you put your best foot forward, stay even-keeled and remain as realistically optimistic as possible, life will lead to some unexpectedly wonderful places.”

...Friday Arts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



PHOTO PROVIDED

Justin Schwarz and Laura Kleger, founders and directors of Friday Arts.

venues, both traditional galleries and unconventional art spaces, including a former dairy factory in Amenia.

In addition to these pop-up galleries, they’ve also hosted art shows online. It’s part of an ethos developed around the concept of making art more accessible to everyday people. To that end, they started the Friday Arts Editions, which features limited runs of sculptures and prints designed for consumption. “We think buying art by living artists is a vote for a certain kind of world — one where creative expertise, imagination and possibility are valued.”

While they plan to continue all these efforts, they’re adding their own gallery space to the mix. And much like their diverse venues of the past, this one is a bit of a mix. Yes, it has white walls like a traditional gallery, but it’s housed in an old switch factory and surrounded by working artists. Moving into a building with a history seems appropriate, as part of their mission statement as an arts group is to foster deeper dialogues with the stories behind the works they present. Part of those efforts come through in interviews with the artists themselves and the subsequent short films posted to their website.

“We often envision a version of our younger selves,” Kleger said, “living outside of a major art center, spending time with [the website] as a helpful resource to inform their own creative journey.”

Their first show, opening on Saturday, Aug. 22 is called “Second Cutting,” based on the second harvest of the summer and “the finer, denser growth a field yields after the ground has already been worked and then returned to.” The show will feature paintings by Rachael Catharine Anderson, Ryan Steadman and Annika Tucksmith, which will work in dialogue with the theme. Kleger and Schwarz will personally lead tours of the exhibition on the two Saturdays after its opening and will offer subsequent tours by appointment.

More information, including videos and contact information for appointments, can be found at [friday-arts.com](http://friday-arts.com).



PHOTO BY MICHAEL KEVIN BALDWIN

(From L to R) Jakob Kerr-Lucero (Jake), Charlotte Wise (Candy), Richie Crane (Joey), Brianna Vivace (Coco), and Vivian Burnham (Stage Manager) in rehearsal for Sharon Playhouse’s “Zombie Prom.”

THEATER

From grave to stage: “Zombie Prom” lights up the Sharon Playhouse

By Natalia Zukerman

Jonny is dead. He’s also still dating Toffee. And he has every intention of making it to the prom.

That’s the basic problem at the heart of “Zombie Prom,” the gloriously campy musical comedy coming to the Sharon Playhouse Aug. 21-23.

Set in a candy-colored 1950s high school, “Zombie Prom” has everything a

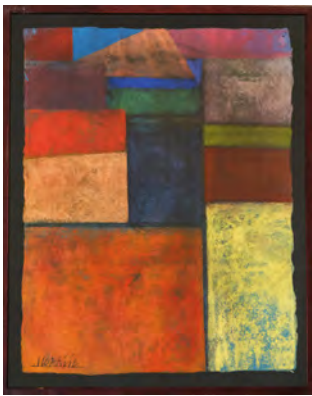
vintage teen musical could want: a sweet girl, a rebellious bad boy, a terrifyingly strict principal, rock ‘n’ roll, big dance numbers and enough adolescent angst to power a small town. It also has a dead boyfriend who refuses to let the grave interfere with his love life.

The show is the second annual production of the Sharon Playhouse’s Launchpad Company, a pre-professional program

for theater artists ages 15 to 20. This year’s young cast comes from communities on both sides of the Connecticut-New York border, including Alex Wilbur of Lakeville as Eddie Flagante, Carlo Desy of Fairfield as Jonny, Abby Callaway of Woodbury as Toffee and Callie Audia of Dover Plains as Miss Delilah Strict.

The musical, with music

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3



Richard Merkin, Entropy

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HISTORY

# The flood that changed Winsted forever

By Jack Sheedy

The flood of 1955 was more than a natural disaster for Winsted, Connecticut. It was a defining event that changed the town forever, according to historian Hamish Lutris, who discussed the flood and its aftermath during a presentation Aug. 7 at the American Mural Project.

“For Winsted, this is really the operative event in their post-World War II history,” Lutris said. “Winsted, for better or worse, has never really been the same since that flood. Half of Main Street got kind of wiped out.”

Lutris’ presentation, “Inundated: Connecticut’s Great Flood of 1955,” was part of the American Mural Project’s “History After Hours” series. The program included sections of the PBS documentary “The Flood of ’55,” narrated by Charlie Bagley, a PowerPoint presentation created by Lutris and photo displays of the flood in Winsted, Unionville, Barkhamsted, New Hartford, Torrington and Canton.

About 75 people attended the event. When people attend a presentation about the flood of 1955, you might expect some of them to talk about how they survived it. But even some people whose homes were not flooded had stories about how it affected their lives.

New Hartford resident Corinne Rebillard said she grew up atop Highland Avenue in Torrington. On Aug. 19, 1955, she and her family were high above the flood, while fellow townspeople in the Naugatuck River Valley below felt its full fury.

“We had no destruction



PHOTO JACK SHEEDY

Jack Lutris presented “Inundated” Connecticut’s Great Flood of 1955 at the American Mural Project in Winsted.

whatsoever,” Rebillard said. “But we lost power, and we had to go to the spring over by Wright’s barn (on Route 4), because we had no running water. I took a bath in a big tub on the patio.”

Of the 200 businesses on Main Street, 170 were destroyed, Lutris said. Contemporary accounts estimated the damage totaled more than \$27 million in 1955 dollars, not including public and private utilities. Of the 87 people who died in Connecticut, seven were from Winsted.

It was a one-two punch by hurricanes Connie and Diane, which produced a

total of 35 inches of rain, he said. To add insult to injury, Hurricane Ione in October, though lacking the force of Connie or Diane, caused another \$20 million in damage and took 17 more lives in the state, he said.

Connecticut’s river systems are beneficial to farming and industry, but they also make the state susceptible to flooding, Lutris said. “We’ve got a lot of water, right? This, of course, is also what created the industrial state of Connecticut, and that is water power, right? And so what happens is, in the 1800s, we’re going to start taking advantage of all

of this flowing water that’s going from the north, basically to the south, and that’s where we’re going to start putting factories,” he said.

But the flip side is the risk of flooding. The rains of Connie and Diane brought floods that wiped out 17 major bridges in Connecticut and even caused Winsted’s Highland Lake to overflow, carrying new and used cars from a dealership to float down onto Main Street, he said.

Lutris lives in Winchester and has taught history in several community colleges in Connecticut. He said he lectures on a variety of historical topics at libraries and historical societies and tries to bring history to life for his listeners. Dates of wars and deaths of kings are only the skeleton of history, he said. “You know when the Civil War was, but if you really want to know what it was like, read letters from soldiers,” he said.

Attending the event was Edward Bachman, who said he did not live in the area in 1955 but in 1963 bought a house in Pleasant Valley that had been through the flood. “Water came to the first floor and filled the crawl space with silt,” he said, based on stories he’d heard.

Paul Hart, a member of the Barkhamsted Historical Society, said he learned of a family who became trapped overnight on a bridge in Pleasant Valley. “Trees were coming down and slamming into the bridge,” he said. “They tried to cross to get out of Pleasant Valley, and it was washed out on the east side, and they came back to the west side, and it just washed out, trapping them on the bridge.”

In the December 2024 issue of “Squire’s Tavern Quarterly,” the newsletter of the Barkhamsted Historical Society, Hart writes, “Standing on the bridge, the water was up to their shins. The family was terrified before being rescued by boat the next day.”

AMP’s special photo exhibit, “Inundated: Connecticut’s Great Flood of 1955,” will be available for viewing with regular AMP admission Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays noon to 5 p.m. through Aug. 29. The next “History After Hours” event will be Sept. 11, a live performance of “The Guys,” a one-act play presented by Herstory Theater.

American Mural Project is at 90 Whiting St., Winsted. For more information, visit americanmuralproject.org or call 860-379-3006.

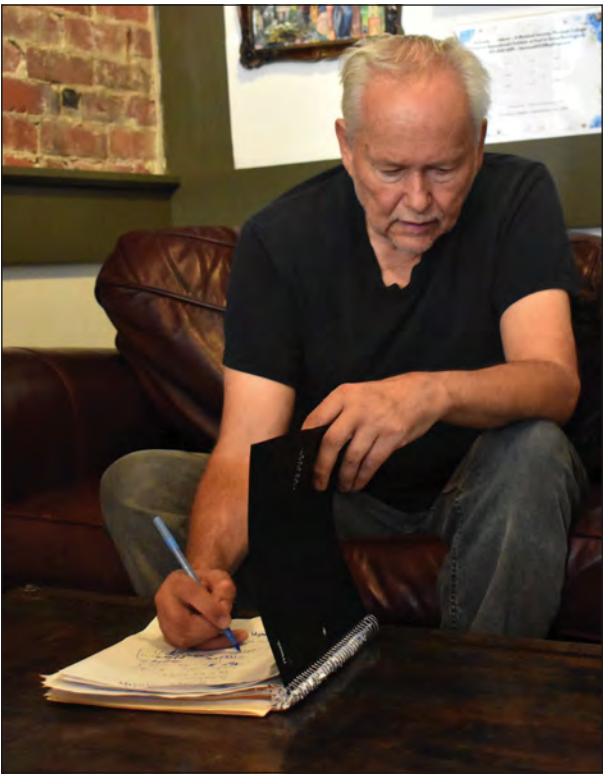


PHOTO BY L. TORMAINO

Poet, composer and librettist David Proskauer.

POETRY

# David Proskauer turns the drama of life into poetry and music

By Robin Roraback

Originally from Westbury, Long Island, but a resident of The Berkshires for over 30 years, poet David Proskauer said, “I don’t know when I got the bug about writing. It just happened.”

“I am inspired by nature, people, places, family and my imagination,” he explained. “Partly, my writing has been a way to clarify my mind, heart, body and soul and as a cleansing for any bipolar irritations,” for which Proskauer says he has found success with treatments.

Proskauer recalls an uncle, Melville Crane, whom he met when he was young whom he considers “an unconscious inspiration” to begin writing.

He mentioned another inspiration: “I once met a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, Gary Schmidgall, who wrote ‘Literature As Opera’ which my father gave to me and which has been a big inspiration in my life.”

Proskauer has published three books of poetry, “The Hearth Waits,” “The Oakdale Community” and “Indian Summer,” of which US Review of Books says, “His notable

collection, ‘Indian Summer,’ captures the essence of fall and its impending winter.”

Besides writing poetry, Proskauer also composes music and writes lyrics. He began playing piano as a child, while his two brothers played the cello. He recalled, “When I was very young, me, my brothers and friends put on a Gian Carl Menotti Christmas opera, ‘Amal and the Night Visitors,’ in our attic.”

He muses that it was “maybe an early exploration of things to come,” explaining, “I am in the middle of writing two librettos. One based on my group home,” where he has lived for more than 25 years, “and the other about Madalyn Murray O’Hair, the famous atheist who was considered in her time to be the most hated woman in America, which would make a very good opera.”

“I love setting poems to music.” One of his choral works, “A Quaker Cantata,” was performed and recorded by the world-renowned Gregg Smith Singers.

Proskauer offered an invitation: “Any serious com-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

# ... ‘Zombie Prom’

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B2

by Dana P. Rowe, lyrics by John Dempsey and a book by Dempsey and Hugh M. Murphy, premiered Off-Broadway in 1996. Sharon’s production has a particularly fun connection to that original run: Director DJ Salisbury was a member of the original Off-Broadway company. He also returns to the Sharon Playhouse, where he directed “42nd Street” in 2011. Michelle Lemon choreographs, and Eric Thomas Johnson is music director.

Expect catchy songs, big personalities, teenage melodrama, zombie shenanigans and enough high camp to make death look like a pretty good time. But underneath all the hairspray and grave dirt, “Zombie Prom” is also a coming-of-age story about love, friendship, refusing to become somebody you’re not and never letting something as minor as death get between you and true love.



PHOTO BY LYNETTE SHY

Rehearsals for “Zombie Prom” at the Sharon Playhouse.

“Zombie Prom” runs Aug. 21 and 22 at 7 p.m. and Aug. 23 at 3 p.m. at the Sharon Playhouse, 49 Amenia Road, Sharon. Tickets at sharon-playhouse.org

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The Art of the smash burger

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### What's cooking at Dugazon?

Bobby Graham & Matthew Marden

Sometimes the simplest meals are the ones we crave most. For us, it's the smash burger — a crispy-edged, juicy classic that practically screams summertime. Easy to make, endlessly satisfying and always a crowd-pleaser. The secret? Start with great ground beef, season generously with salt, freshly cracked black pepper and a dash of Tony Chachere's Original Creole Seasoning, available at DUGAZON. Cook on a screaming-hot grill or cast-iron skillet with a little butter to create those irresistible caramelized edges. From there, it's all about the layers: toasted potato buns, melted American cheese, crisp iceberg lettuce, thinly sliced onion, ripe tomato, crunchy pickles and your favorite condiments. Simple ingredients, done exceptionally well.

- Like so many of our favorite meals, the smash burger reminds us that everyday cooking can be something special. Gather family or friends, set the table — even if it's just on the porch — and enjoy the moment. Good food has a wonderful way of bringing people together.
- Ingredients**
- 1½ pounds ground beef, 80% or 85% lean
  - Salted butter, for griddle and buns
  - American cheese, such as Kraft Singles
  - Kosher salt
  - Freshly ground black pepper
  - Tony Chachere's Original Creole Seasoning
  - 8 potato buns
  - 1 large tomato, thinly sliced
  - 1 large yellow or purple onion, thinly sliced
  - Sliced pickles
  - Iceberg lettuce



PHOTO BY BOBBY GRAHAM

- Favorite condiments, such as ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise or other sauces
- Divide the ground beef into eight loosely packed balls, about 3 ounces each.
- Equipment**
- Cast-iron or flat-top griddle (we like the Lodge brand)
  - Burger press

- Sturdy spatula
- Gas grill
- Instructions**
1. Preheat the grill. Heat the gas grill on high for 10 to 15 minutes. Place the cast-iron griddle over the burners. You want the surface to reach about 500 to 550 degrees.
  2. Toast the buns.

- Butter the cut sides of the potato buns. Place them on the hot griddle and toast for 30 to 60 seconds, until golden. Remove and set aside.
3. Smash the burgers. Place four beef balls on the hot griddle with a little butter. Depending on the size of your griddle, you may need to cook them in

- The smash burger done right.*
- batches. Don't overcrowd the griddle; the burgers need room. Wait about 10 seconds, then firmly smash each ball with a burger press until it is about ¼-inch thick. Immediately season with salt, pepper and Tony Chachere's.
4. Cook. Let the burgers cook undisturbed for two to three minutes. You'll know they're ready when the edges are deeply browned and crispy.
5. Flip. Use a sharp metal spatula to scrape underneath each burger and flip. Immediately top each patty with a slice of American cheese. Cook for another 30 to 60 seconds.
6. Serve. Place the burgers on the toasted potato buns. We prefer one patty per burger, but you can stack two if you like. Add tomato, lettuce, onion, pickles and your favorite condiments. Eat and enjoy! Repeat with the remaining beef balls.

... Mushroom Festival

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

This spirit fits the Berkshire festival, whose theme this year is “the mycelial web of nature, creativity, science and magic.” Over the course of the weekend, visitors can explore mushrooms from nearly every conceivable angle: guided walks and species identification, cultivation, cooking, crafts, spore-print art and conversations about medicinal and psychedelic fungi. Among the presenters is Berkshire native John Wheeler, founder of the Berkshire Mycological Society, who has been foraging for more than 30 years and has identified roughly 1,100 mushroom species. He'll lead a Sunday foraging workshop and join a panel on foraging and identification with Luke Sarrantonio, founder of Mycophilic. Sarrantonio, who grew up in Rosendale, has built a career around fungal education, cultivation and community projects, including the Catskills' annual “For the Love of Fungi” mushroom and arts festival.

The festival also goes deep into the increasingly visible world of psychedelic fungi. Daniel Shankin, founder of Tam Integration, is a psychedelic integration coach whose work focuses on helping people incorporate transformative psychedelic experiences into their lives. “It's so exciting to be able to bring in such wide-ranging talent,” said Shankin of the speakers and presenters at this year's festival. “There are people that I've been friends with in this community for years that I haven't gotten to work with in person because they live in Guatemala or the Netherlands or another part of the world, so this is so exciting.” As the founder of an organization that works with the psychedelic portion of the fungi world, Shankin is also excited to bring the growing consciousness around this modality to more people and train more people to be guides.



PHOTOS BY DANIEL SHANKIN

Presenters at the 2025 Berkshire Mushroom Festival.

“Not everybody necessarily needs to do psychedelics,” said Shankin, “but I feel like everybody needs to be able to hold space for somebody who's on psychedelics.” Cassandra Purdy, founder of Sweetgrass Botanicals, has spent more than 30 years immersed in the world of plant medicine, shamanism and entheogens. Together with other presenters, they'll explore psychedelic preparation and integration, spirituality, safety, ethics and the art of creating supportive spaces for psychedelic experiences. And the weekend's conversation about fungi extends well beyond psychedelics. Imani Turnbull-Brown, co-founder of the Entheogen Melanin Collective, brings a focus on ancestral healing, Black wellness and making the psychedelic conversation more accessible and inclusive. Other sessions explore soil and regeneration, functional and medicinal mushrooms, cultivation, mushroom-inspired art and the practical business of growing fungi.

“I think people are increasingly suspicious of Western medicine,” said Shankin. “They're looking for ways to combat the effects of aging and pollution, the effects of toxins in their foods, and they're interested in taking their health and well-being into their own hands. Learning about functional mushrooms and



the healthy lifestyle that goes along with them can go a long way.” The Berkshire Mushroom Festival offers a particularly enjoyable way to investigate these extraordinary organisms — and to consider whether fungi might even hold some answers to the human-made environmental challenges unfolding around us. As

Stamets has put it, “I love a challenge and saving the Planet seems like a good one.” Come see what the fungi have to say for themselves. The Berkshire Mushroom Festival takes place Aug. 22 and 23 at Dewey Hall, 91 Main St., Sheffield, Massachusetts. For more information and tickets, visit berkshiremushroom.com

... David Proskauer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

poser who might want to collaborate with me, please get in touch.” “I also write some prose with an autobiographical, journalistic flavor.” He has written the booklets, “Vineyard Vacation” and “The Empire State.” For Proskauer, his poetry and music are the perfect answer to expressing his creativity. “Many years ago, I was really into drama. Writing and composing give me another outlet, one that is more individual and expresses the drama in my life.” The distinction between his two creative worlds comes through in his poem “A Writer's Almanac,” in which he considers the emotional nature of poetry alongside the more abstract quality of music:

**A Writer's Almanac**  
by David Proskauer  
And each Poetic verse  
Moody and terse  
Comes from Feeling, emotion  
And a light  
And heavy  
Nerve to Be tested  
And nursed  
But my music  
Non-verbal and Abstract is  
Full of objective Fact

For Proskauer, the two forms may speak different languages, but both offer a way to make sense of the world — and of himself. To contact Proskauer about his books or to collaborate, email davidproskauer@gmail.com.



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EDUCATION

Making room for making with Cottage Courses

By Natalia Zukerman

Cottage Courses is a series of hands-on workshops led by artists and craftspeople in the Hudson Valley and Northwest Connecticut, offering participants the chance to learn everything from basket weaving and natural dyeing to quilting, spoon carving and candle making. Founded by artist Natalie Baxter, the program is designed to make creativity accessible — and to give people something increasingly rare: the time, space and encouragement to slow down and make something with their hands.

“You don’t need to arrive with experience, or even with confidence, to take a class,” Baxter said. “Cottage Courses is for anyone who feels curious about making and wants to spend a little time learning with their hands.”

This fall’s lineup offers plenty of opportunities to do just that. On Sept. 6, basket maker Angela Eastman will lead a basketweaving workshop at Troutbeck in Amenia. Sept. 12 brings bundle dyeing at Rose Hill Farm in Red Hook, followed by a natural dye workshop at Maitri Farm in Amenia on Sept. 19. In October, participants can make fire cider at Maitri Farm, spend a weekend quilting at Cottage Courses’

“My hope is that people leave with not only something they’ve made, but also a renewed sense of creativity, possibility and connection.”

NATALIE BAXTER

Quilt Camp in Wassaic and learn spoon carving with Kate Hawes at Troutbeck. November brings beeswax taper candle making at Troutbeck.

The natural-dye workshops are part of a new collaboration with Maitri Farm, whose flower farmers worked with Baxter to select flowers specifically for dyeing. “They met with me earlier this spring to discuss which flowers to grow for natural dye workshops, which was very kind of them,” she said. “I’m excited to partner with them for two workshops this summer and fall.”

There are changes behind the scenes at Cottage Courses, too. Baxter is now running the workshop series on her own after her former co-founder, Polly Shindler, moved on. She has also built a new studio in her backyard, creating a dedicated space for longer,



PHOTO BY NATALIE BAXTER

Participants at a recent Quilt Camp for adults.

more immersive workshops. The studio recently hosted its first weeklong adult Quilt Camp, with another week-end version scheduled for Oct. 16-18.

For Baxter, the longer workshops offer something

that can be difficult to find in everyday life: uninterrupted time to make.

“Longer courses allow participants to take on a more substantial project and spend enough time with it to really settle into the

process,” she said. “They offer the kind of uninterrupted studio time that many of us don’t often give ourselves in our everyday lives.”

And the community that develops around the work is just as important. For longer courses, Baxter prepares lunch so participants can take a break, share a meal and get to know one another. “The conversations, encouragement, and sense of community that grow in the studio can be just as meaningful as the projects themselves,” she said.

That sense of connection is at the heart of what Baxter loves about teaching. “I love meeting new people and learning what draws them to making,” she said. “It’s especially meaningful to see someone arrive saying, ‘I’m not creative,’

and then watch them surprise themselves with what they’re able to make.”

The upcoming courses also bring in instructors Baxter has met while teaching at other craft schools. “I am also bringing in more instructors whom I have met while teaching at different craft schools lately to hold workshops, which is always fun,” she said.

Whether you’re an experienced maker or someone who has never picked up a needle, carving knife or basket reed, Baxter hopes Cottage Courses offers a welcoming entry point.

“My hope is that people leave with not only something they’ve made, but also a renewed sense of creativity, possibility and connection,” said Baxter.

For details, registration and the full course schedule, visit [cottagecourses.com](http://cottagecourses.com)

COMMUNITY

Jeremiah Bickford sees art as a way to give back

By Ruth Epstein

Jeremiah Bickford’s art not only showcases the beauty of the landscape, but his work also aims to benefit the community.

While he was always drawn to art, noting, “It’s been simmering in the background all my life,” he really got serious about pursuing his passion about six years ago. He has now produced a number of paintings and, even to his own amazement, garnered some awards.

Bickford, who lives in Norfolk, thinks big when it comes to his watercolors. He works on canvases that are about the size of a piece of plywood — 88 inches by 44 inches. He acknowledged there’s not a lot of meaning behind the large concept, “but it’s like a puzzle for me.”

His focus is on nature and local landscapes, occasionally imaginary,, although his first endeavor was life-sized copies of stained-glass windows. He paints vertically on an 8-foot-by 4-foot easel.

The local scenery provides him with numerous subjects. He’s proud of the piece featuring Freund’s Farm Market flower garden in East Canaan.

He was also pleased to be a finalist in the Berkshire Museum Show in Pittsfield in January 2025, when 41 pieces were chosen from a field of 1,200 submissions from 484 artists.

A panoramic painting of Campbell Falls State Park won him first place at the Indian Mountain School Art Show in April 2025. “I was too embarrassed to open the envelope there, and when I did, I was shocked to see a \$5,000



PHOTO PROVIDED

Norfolk artist Jeremiah Bickford is donating part of the profits from his paintings to charities and hopes others will do the same.

check,” he said.

Bickford recently had his first solo show at the Five Points Annex Gallery in Torrington, where 15 pieces of his work were displayed. One depicted Laurelbrook Farm, owned by the Jacquier family, which is also in East Canaan. Jennifer and Cricket Jacquier saw the painting on their 29th wedding anniversary and were so enthralled with the scene that they bought it as a gift to themselves.

He is currently part of the Sherman Artists Association’s “August Light 2026” show, which opened Friday, Aug. 14 at the Kent Art Association gallery, where he took best in show. That show is on view through Sept. 6.

“I’ve been very lucky for someone who doesn’t really know how to promote my work,” said Bickford, 50.

But Bickford does know that artists are often at the forefront of social change. Describing himself as an

introvert, he was looking for a way to show his support. “As things got crazier and crazier in the country, I wanted to do more to help.”

So he is designating about half the profits from the sales of his paintings to a charity. He has donated \$2,000 to the Canaan Fire Department, and the next beneficiary will be the Douglas Library in North Canaan.

He hopes the idea will catch on and other artists will follow suit. He’s toying with the thought of establishing an online gallery where like-minded artists could post their work and link to nonprofits.

Bickford, a graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School, has a degree in graphic design from Northwestern Connecticut Community College, studied at the University of Wyoming and graduated from Charter Oak State College. He holds a master’s degree in special education from

Westfield State University. He has been a special education staff member in the Monument Mountain school system in Sheffield for 18 years.

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*“Amenia’s Spycatcher,” a new historical drama by George Bistransin, brings the Revolutionary War era to life through the story of Amenia residents Ephraim and Mary Paine, whose lives intersected with espionage, loyalty and the struggle for independence. Presented by the Amenia Historical Society at Amenia Town Hall, Aug. 21 and 22 at 8 p.m. and Aug. 23 at 2 p.m. Admission is free.*

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Tri-Corner Calendar

AUGUST 20

**Handcrafted Shoes with Andrew Rowand**  
Seven Hearths Museum, 4 Studio Hill Road, Kent, Conn. Connecticut shoemaker Andrew Rowand demonstrates the art of handcrafting shoes using period-appropriate tools, materials and techniques. Rowand has specialized in recreating historical footwear from the 17th to 19th centuries for more than a decade and is currently researching and cataloging shoes discovered in early New England structures. The program is part of the Homespun Makers’ Series and begins at 5 p.m.

**“Intro to Astrology: Exploring Your Birth Chart”**  
David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org  
Learn how to interpret your birth chart during this introductory astrology workshop with Sonya Reeve. Participants who submit their birth information in advance will receive a personalized reading. 5:30 p.m. Register and submit birth information at bit.ly/45GJ8pb

**Book Discussion: AI SNAKE OIL with Stevo Ledbetter and Kat Zdan**  
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org  
5:30 to 7 p.m., join us for a talk about the book “AI Snake Oil” and a discussion about AI, its practical uses and dangers, and its role in our lives, work, and the world at large. Registration required at scovillelibrary.org

AUGUST 21

**Open Mic**  
The Grace Note at The Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y. Join an open mic night featuring music, spoken word, comedy and other forms of self-expression. Performers of all ages and experience levels are welcome. Interested in performing? We will start taking sign-up requests on Friday, August 14. Email info@thestissingcenter.org. Limited slots available! 7:30 p.m.

**Amenia’s Spy Catcher**  
Amenia Town Hall Theater, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, N.Y. Amenia Historical Society presents Amenia’s Spy Catcher, a new historical drama set in Amenia during the American Revolution. Funded by a Dutchess County Rev250 grant, the production combines espionage, intrigue and romance while telling the story of Ephraim Paine, a Revolutionary War politician, and his wife Mary, who serves as the play’s titular spy catcher. Written and directed by George Bistransin, the cast includes Gary Petagine, Sadie Whitlow, Margaret O’Brien, Nicholas Scott, Fiona Crow and Thatcher Meili. Performances are Friday, Aug. 21, and Saturday, Aug. 22, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 23, at 2 p.m. Admission is free. Reservations are recommended. More information and reservations at AmeniaSpycatcher.eventbrite.com.

AUGUST 22

**In Conversation: Joel Haynes and Talya Baharal**  
Mad Rose Gallery, 5916 N. Elm St., Millerton, N.Y. Come to Mad Rose Gallery for

an In Conversation with two of the featured painters, Joel Haynes and Talya Baharal. At 3 p.m., start at the Main Gallery, 5916 N Elm Street with Muralist Joel Haynes in the *Birds & Bees* exhibition. At 4 p.m. in *The Space Between Words* exhibition, artist Talya Baharal will talk about her works in the Mercantile Gallery at 3 Main Street. A reception will follow. RSVP info@madrosegallery.com

**Sound Bath for Peace**  
Innisfree Garden, 362 Tyrrel Road, Millbrook, N.Y. Sound practitioner and visual artist Ben Brown leads an immersive after-hours listening experience inspired by the sounds and resonance of Innisfree Garden. Participants can settle onto a yoga mat, blanket or folding chair and listen to a layered soundscape of musical instruments and natural sounds. No meditation or yoga experience is necessary. The program takes place from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in honor of the United Nations International Day of Peace and as part of Gardens for Peace. In the event of rain, the rain date is Sept. 5. Advance registration is encouraged at innisfreegarden.org

**“Silent Film & Live Music with Donald Sosin & Joanna Seaton”**  
Gordon Hall, Music Mountain, 225 Music Mountain Road, Falls Village, Conn. Watch Buster Keaton’s 1926 Civil War comedy “The General,” accompanied by live music from pianist Donald Sosin and singer/percussionist Joanna Seaton. 7 p.m. Tickets and information at musicmountain.org

**BrewFest & Summer Send Off Concert**  
Catamount Mountain Resort, 17 Catamount Road, Hillsdale, N.Y. More than 50 craft beers and ciders will be available for tasting at this annual BrewFest, featuring breweries including Barrington Brewery, Berkshire Brewing Company, Downeast Cider, Fiddlehead Brewing, Jack’s Abby Craft Lagers, Progression Brewing, Roe Jan Brewery and Sloop Brewing Company. The event also includes live music by Blue Roadhouse Orchestra (Grateful BRO), barbecue, burgers and hot dogs, lawn games, scenic chairlift rides, zipline adventures and the aerial adventure park. 1 to 5 p.m. More information at catamountski.com.

**Seth Howe: “Architecture of Awareness”**  
Tyte Gallery, 3280 Franklin Ave- 2nd Floor, Millbrook, N.Y. Aug. 8 through Sept. 27

Tyte Gallery presents “Architecture of Awareness,” a solo exhibition by New York-based artist and architect Seth Howe, curated by Sharon Bates. The exhibition brings together sculpture, works on paper and video exploring perception, consciousness and the relationship between body and environment. There will be a conversation with the artist and curator on Aug. 22 at 2 p.m. For more information, visit tytegallery.com.

**Homespun Makers’ Series: Turkey Wing Broom Making Workshop**  
Seven Hearths Museum, 4 Studio Hill Road, Kent, Conn. Join craftswoman Robin Ziegler of Robin’s Nest Home

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

and Hearth for a workshop celebrating Revolutionary-era, homespun creativity. Participants will create their own functional turkey wing whisk broom using all-natural broom corn, with choices of string and broom corn seed accents. The workshop is part of the Kent Historical Society’s Homespun Makers’ Series. For more information, visit kenthistoricalsociety.org.

**Berkshire Opera Festival’s “Lucia di Lammermoor”**  
Mahaive Performing Arts Center, 14 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass. Aug. 22, 25 and 28

The Mahaive and Berkshire Opera Festival present Donizetti’s “Lucia di Lammermoor,” the crown jewel of bel canto opera, on Aug. 22 at 1 p.m., and Aug. 25 and 28 at 7:30 p.m. Set among the foggy moors and ancient castles of Scotland, the tragic tale follows Lucia, whose forbidden love and forced marriage lead to one of opera’s most unforgettable scenes. Known for its dramatic intensity and virtuosic singing, the masterpiece remains a powerful showcase of the human voice. Tickets at mahaive.org

**2026 Berkshire Mushroom Festival**  
Dewey Hall, 91 Main St., Sheffield, Mass. Aug. 22 to 23

A vibrant two-day celebration of all things fungi. Perfect for seasoned mycophiles and curious families alike, this gathering offers guided foraging walks, artisan market vendors, and expert-led workshops covering everything from home cultivation and fungal natural dyeing to functional extractions and the therapeutic potential of psychedelics. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. More info at berkshirermountainmushroom.com

AUGUST 23

**Auditions for “Now and Then”**  
Ghent Playhouse, 6 Town Hall Place, Ghent, N.Y. Sunday, Aug. 23, sign-in at 12:30 p.m., auditions at 1 p.m.; Monday, Aug. 24, sign-in at 6:30 p.m., auditions at 7 p.m. Open auditions for Sean Grennan’s heartfelt dramatic comedy “Now and Then,” directed by Dianne Hobden. Actors will read selected scenes from the script. The play will be performed Nov. 25 to 29 and Dec. 4 to 6. For audition sides or more information, contact director Dianne Hobden at diannehobden51@gmail.com or 518-755-2069.

**AugustFest in the Village**  
David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org  
A fundraiser featuring smoked brats from Nodine’s Smokehouse, craft beers from Norbrook Farm Brewery, soft pretzels from The Falls Village Inn, a silent auction and live music by Vance Cannon and Friends. Held outdoors on the library’s shady lawn, the event will also offer vegetarian options, lemonade and a limited-edition Hunt Library cup for each guest. Silent auction items include a scenic airplane ride, a Coach purse, homemade bread baskets, a weekend in a New York City apartment, a handmade guitar and gift certificates to

local restaurants. 4 to 6 p.m. Tickets available at the event or at huntlibrary.org.

AUGUST 25

**180th Dutchess County Fair**  
Dutchess County Fairgrounds, 6636 Route 9, Rhinebeck, N.Y. Aug. 25 to 30

The annual Dutchess County Fair returns with six days of family entertainment, including agricultural exhibits, livestock shows, carnival rides, live music, food vendors, arts and crafts, historical displays and more. Grandstand performances include Chase Matthew, .38 Special, Journey from the Heart, Almost Queen, Tyler Braden and the Painted Pony Championship Rodeo. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. (Sunday, Aug. 30, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.) More information at dutchessfair.com.

AUGUST 26

**Meet Sheep & Explore Wool**  
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org  
Join Le Petit Ranch at the Scoville Library 2 to 4 p.m. for a special up-close, hands-on, sheep-and-wool experience. Meet sheep, learn about their care and sociable lifestyle, explore the journey from fleece to fiber, discover different wool textures hands-on, and take home a wool sample. For all ages. Registration required. scovillelibrary.org/event/sheep-felting-3465

AUGUST 28

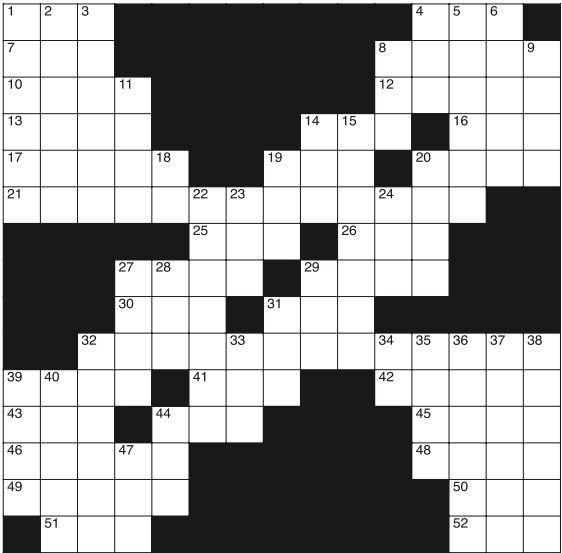
**Happy Hour Piano Series: Paula Bradley**  
American Mural Project, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn. 5 to 7 p.m. AMP’s Happy Hour Piano Series continues.

West Virginia-born multi-instrumentalist residing in the Berkshires, Paula has been involved in roots music for decades. Known for her strong, spirited vocals, she has toured (on banjo) with old-time darlings “Uncle Earl”; with old-time powerhouse Bruce Molsky (on guitar and banjo uke); and recorded and toured with Tony Trischka (piano, guitar) and Bruce as part of the acoustic roots trio “Jawbone”. She was also a founding member of the popular New England honky-tonk combo (on piano) “Girl Howdy,” and with her late husband, Bill Dillof, “Moonshine Holler.” Currently, she also leads her own popular juke joint swing combo “Miss Paula & The Twangbusters.” Tickets at americanmuralproject.org/piano-series.

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Microgram
- 4. Fixed charge
- 7. Each
- 8. Feeling of humiliation
- 10. Coat with sticky substance
- 12. Powerful “Severance” family
- 13. Japanese city
- 14. “Pulp Fiction” actress Thurman
- 16. Hat
- 17. Place where rockers work
- 19. Psyche
- 20. Snake-like fishes
- 21. Where people live
- 25. Body part
- 26. Old towel
- 27. One’s essential being
- 29. Japanese alcoholic beverage
- 30. Boxing’s GOAT
- 31. Wet muddy ground
- 32. Christian Laettner is one
- 39. A place to store lawn tools
- 41. Large tub for liquid
- 42. Old World lizard
- 43. One-time European member group
- 44. Healing student
- 45. Nuclear weapon
- 46. “Kiss of the Spider Woman” actress Sonia
- 48. Silk garment
- 49. About some Norse poems
- 50. Woman religious community member
- 51. Congressman (abbr.)
- 52. Two-year-old sheep

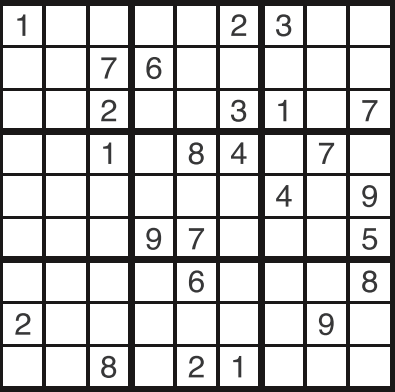


- 11. Low-pitched sound from a bell
- 14. Exclamation: yuck!
- 15. A place to attach a boat
- 18. Exclamation of surprise
- 19. Make a mistake
- 20. Border line
- 22. Have religious faith
- 23. Klutz
- 24. Large tree
- 27. House of \_ rulers
- 28. Red deer
- 29. Small coin (French)
- 31. Popular sandwich
- 32. 10-year period
- 33. Not good
- 34. Government lawyer
- 35. Egypt’s intelligence agency
- 36. Without an occupant or incumbent
- 37. Stain with one’s hands
- 38. Crippling
- 39. One point east of southeast
- 40. Large, united groups

August 13 Solution

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | S | E | D | A | D | A | S | G | A | M | A | Y |
| P | E | G | I | M | I | D | E | A | P | U | R | E |
| A | P | R | I | S | P | E | C | I | A | L | I | S |
| S | T | E | E | L | S |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| M | A | S | A | N |   | D | A | M | A | S | C | E |
|   |   |   | S | I | G | A | C |   |   | E | G | A |
| C | A | E | C | A |   | M | A | L | E | S |   |   |
| O | S | S |   | G | R | A | D | A | T | E | S | A |
| M | I |   | E | A | R | E | D |   | P | A | U | S |
| E | D | O | M |   |   | M | E |   |   |   |   |   |
| S | E | R | E | N | A | D | E | S |   | R | A | T |
|   |   | A | D | O | B | E |   |   | M | A | R | I |
| R | A | T | I | O | N | A | L | I | S | T |   |   |
| P | R | O | A | S |   | R | E | N | E | E | L | C |
| M | E | R | L | E |   | S | Y | N | C | S |   | E |

Sudoku



Level: Intermediate

August 13 Solution

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



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Our Towns

Robert Cronin, 90, reflects on career as an artist and a brush with Picasso

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Painter Robert Cronin provided an overview of his career – including a close encounter with Pablo Picasso – at the David M. Hunt Library Thursday, Aug. 13, shortly after the opening of his current exhibit of paintings on the library’s ArtWall, on view through Sept. 11.

While Cronin, 90, is known today for his prolific body of work including abstract paintings, he began his foray into art with an attempt at industrial design — an attempt to make a 14-inch model of an automobile, to be more specific.

Cronin said that in the 1950s, General Motors sponsored a competition that brought select young designers to the Midwest to meet GM executives.

“If you won first prize in your state, you were flown to Detroit,” Cronin said of the contest, in which he saw some success, although he wasn’t invited to Michigan.

He participated throughout all four years of high school in the early 1950s and earned honorable mention a couple of times. As a prize, he remembers winning an X-Acto knife set, which impressed the young man.

Cronin said his interest



Artist Robert Cronin, left, and Hunt Library volunteer Garth Kobal prior to Cronin’s retrospective talk Thursday, Aug. 13.

gradually shifted from industrial design to fine art, and at the Rhode Island School of Design he “made an impression” on the faculty and fellow students with an exercise he completed for “2D class.”

“The professor hung it over a window for the whole semester,” Cronin recounted.

During the talk, he showed two slides: one a portrait of his girlfriend at the time and one self-portrait, along with photos of his abstract art pieces.

“I enjoyed the instinctive connection of abstraction and the discipline of representation,” he said.

Ultimately, Cronin’s career went in the abstract direction.

In 1969, now an established artist and art teacher, Cronin and his wife, Connie, traveled to Nice, France, and the surrounding area for a five-week stay.

One day they decided to drive to the nearby town of Vallauris to see Pablo Picasso’s pottery at the Galerie Madoura.

As they left the gallery, a Lincoln Continental pulled up, looking ostentatious and out of place.

Pablo Picasso, a very small man, emerged from the Lincoln, a very large car.

“He was wearing a bathrobe, basically,” Cronin said. “We just flipped.”

Connie managed to take a furtive snapshot, but they

didn’t want to impose.

So they went for lunch instead.

On the way back to their car, the Lincoln appeared again, heading toward them.

“I said, you wave, I’ll get the picture.”

Picasso, recognizing them from the earlier encounter, leaned out the window and said ‘bonjour’ with a big smile. “He had such a happy face,” Cronin said.

Cronin had a Kodak Instamatic camera and, although he got a photo of Picasso going by in the passenger seat of the Lincoln, it wasn’t “THE” photo.

“This would have been a famous, iconic photo,” said Cronin. “But I missed it.”



The Salisbury Band will perform its final summer concert on Aug. 29 at the Scoville Memorial Library.

Salisbury Band to close out summer with concert

By Aly Morrissey

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Band will close out its summer season with an annual outdoor concert on the lawn of the Scoville Memorial Library on Saturday, Aug. 29, at 3 p.m., weather permitting.

Now in its 98th year, the community band has been a fixture at concerts, parades and other events around the Northwest Corner since its founding in 1928. The group draws amateur musicians from Salisbury and surrounding towns across the tri-state area and is often recognizable by its signature white uniforms and red vests.

The band most recently performed at the Lakeville Town Grove on the Fourth of July. Its annual appearances have long been tied

to community traditions in Salisbury, including Memorial Day observances, which the band has participated in since 1931.

Originally known as the Lakeville-Salisbury Band, the group was founded by local insurance agent and musician Harry Eggleston at a time when town bands were a popular form of community entertainment. Over the decades, its musicians have performed throughout Connecticut and neighboring New York and Massachusetts. The group formally became the Salisbury Band in 1982.

Attendees at the Aug. 29 concert are encouraged to bring lawn chairs. The performance will conclude the band’s summer season, with activities resuming in the spring. New members are welcome.

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