

The Lakeville Journal

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18 PAGES IN 2 SECTIONS VOLUME 130 NUMBER 13

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026 \$3.00

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



Demonstrators gather on the White Hart lawn in Salisbury Saturday, Oct. 17, for a No Kings rally encouraging residents to vote.

‘No Kings’ cry rings across the region

Rallies draw 250 in Salisbury, dozens in Cornwall and Kent

By Ruth Epstein

SALISBURY — Calls to vote early and put a check on President Donald Trump drew demonstrators to Salisbury, Cornwall and Kent Saturday, Oct. 17, as part of a nationwide day of No Kings rallies ahead of the Nov. 3 midterm elections.

The gatherings were among dozens across Connecticut held under the banner “No Kings: Vote Early.”

The movement grew out of opposition to Trump and what participants describe as threats to democracy and civil rights. This round of events emphasized turning protest into voter participation.

In Salisbury, an estimated 250 people gathered on the White Hart lawn despite chilly temperatures. Participants waved signs at passing motorists, held conversations and danced to music performed by the Berkshire Resilience Brass Band. Many wore blue, and several held large pieces of blue fabric to symbolize their hopes for a Democratic wave in the upcoming election.

Signs mixed appeals to vote with

criticism of the administration. “Vote — it’s our only way out of this,” read one. Others declared “Save Civil Rights” and “First MAGA Came for Immigrants.” Another warned, “We the People never forget the cowards in Congress who kept quiet.”

Comments and signs reflected a desire for Democrats to win control of both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to restrain Trump’s administration.

Sophia deBoer, one of the Salisbury organizers, said the push for

early voting had three goals: reducing opportunities for interference at polling places; allowing campaigns to concentrate on people who have

See ‘NO KINGS’, Page A10

See NORTHWELL, Page A10

Cornwall residents question zoning change tied to Rumsey gym plan

By Ruth Epstein

CORNWALL — A proposed zoning change that would pave the way for converting the former Rumsey Hall gymnasium into a community gathering space with two apartments drew objections from neighbors last week over traffic, noise and the village’s character.

A large audience attended the Planning and Zoning Commission’s Oct. 13 public hearings on the mixed-use proposal and a proposed townwide ban on data centers and large-scale battery storage facilities.

The commission made no decisions and continued both hearings until Nov. 10.

The mixed-use zoning amendment would apply to the former Rumsey Hall and former Marvelwood properties within the Cornwall Plains Overlay Zone.

The zone was created to encourage reuse of large institutional buildings while preserving Cornwall Village’s residential and historic character.

The amendment would allow mixed-use development by special permit and remove a restriction limiting each lot to one principal building and one principal use. The gymnasium redevelopment would still require separate approval from the commission.

Martin Connor, a longtime cer-

tified planner representing Amber Construction on behalf of Old Town Hall LLC, presented the proposed zoning amendment.

The request stems from a plan to restore the former gymnasium at 12 Bolton Hill Road, creating a community assembly space on the first floor and two residential studio apartments on the second.

The application filed with the town also describes a separate new building within the footprint of the former Rumsey Hall building, with commercial space and a two-bedroom apartment, bringing the proposed total to three housing units.

The commission postponed the

See ZONING, Page A10



Runners and their dogs set off at the start of the Little Guild’s 13th annual Run & Wag 5K in Cornwall Saturday, Oct. 17.

Runners and dogs race to support Little Guild

By Tom Brown

CORNWALL — Runners and their four-legged companions took to Cornwall’s roads Saturday, Oct. 17, as the Little Guild’s 13th annual Run & Wag 5K drew 238 human participants and 68 dogs to support the animal shelter.

Brittany Telke and her 6-year-old dog, Mazikeen, won the runner-and-dog category and finished third overall with a time of 19 minutes and six seconds. Telke and Mazikeen have won the runner-and-dog category several times.

Michael Mills won the overall race in 18:54, while Liz Fongler finished second in 18:59. Neither had a dog.

Starting at the town Green, the 3.1-mile course wound through Cornwall Village and the surrounding valley.

See RUN & WAG, Page A10



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Online This Week

‘No Kings’ rallies

For additional photos of the No Kings demonstration, go to Lakevillejournal.com

POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

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

Assault charges

On Wednesday, Oct. 7, at approximately 8 p.m. troopers were dispatched to investigate a possible assault at an address on Smith Place in Cornwall. Damien Davis, 39, of Cornwall, was arrested after an investigation that stemmed from a complaint of an individual screaming for help on the telephone. Davis was charged with assault in the second degree and disorderly conduct and was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court.

Traffic-stop drug arrest

A traffic stop on Lower Road in North Canaan on Tuesday, Oct. 6 at approximately 9:30 p.m. for a motor vehicle violation resulted in a drug arrest. Douglas Shanley, 34, of Ashley Falls, Mass., was arrested following a search of the vehicle by a State Police K9 team that led to charges of use of drug paraphernalia. Shanley was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court.

Subaru hits tree

On Saturday, Oct. 10 at approximately 10:45 p.m. Audra Salazar, 53, of Sharon was southbound on Modley Road when the car lost control and hit a tree. The 2024 Subaru was towed from the scene and Salazar was issued an infraction for failure to maintain lane.

Under the influence

Melquiades Lopez Perez, 34, of North Canaan, was southbound on North Elm Street in North Canaan on Friday, Oct. 9 at approxi-

mately 9 p.m. in a 2004 Toyota Highlander when the vehicle veered off the road and struck a tree. He was charged with operating under the influence, failure to maintain lane and operating without a license. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

Porsche overturns

Inigo Gonzalez, 36, of Brooklyn, N.Y., was traveling east on Cornwall Bridge Road on Sunday, Oct. 11 at approximately 3:30 p.m. in a 2003 Porsche 911 when the vehicle collided with the westbound embankment, overturning in the west-bound lane. Gonzalez sustained minor injuries and was transported to Sharon Hospital by Sharon EMS. He was issued a written warning for traveling too fast for conditions.

Evading responsibility

Rosaura Mazo Palacin, 67, of Pittsfield, Mass., turned herself in at Troop B on Tuesday, Oct. 13, at approximately 11 a.m. for an active arrest warrant stemming from a June 29, 2026 incident on Lime Rock Road in Salisbury. A vehicle driven by Palacin allegedly rear-ended a car at a stop sign then continued to drive away. Palacin is charged with evading responsibility and following too closely with an accident resulting and is scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court.

Burglary, larceny and trespass

Reynaldo Colon, 22, of New York, N.Y., who was in the custody of the Bridgeport Correctional Center, was transported to Superior Court on Wednesday, Oct. 14 for a hearing on charges of burglary, criminal trespass and larceny related to an in-

cident in May at a Sharon residence on Herrick Road.

A 2016 Volvo XC90 was reportedly stolen and caretakers told Troop B troopers that it appeared someone had been squatting in an apartment above a detached garage, having made spaghetti and left dishes in the sink.

The vehicle was later recovered by Monroe, N.Y., police, who also found mail inside the Volvo that resulted in Colon’s arrest. Colon also was a suspect in a squatter confrontation at a residence on Lilac Lane in Sharon last May.

Control substance charge

Juan Xeché Coche, 18, of North Canaan, was arrested on Friday, Oct. 16, at approximately 9 a.m. following a report from the principal of Housatonic Valley Regional High School regarding a student allegedly in possession of what was believed to be a controlled substance. Xeché Coche was charged with possession of a controlled substance, first offense and scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court.

Rear-ended on Rt. 128

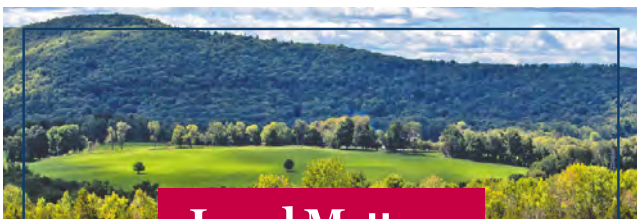
Cynthia Pokorny, 32, of Southington was traveling on Sharon Goshen Turnpike on Friday, Oct. 16, in a USPS vehicle at approximately 1:30 p.m. when her vehicle struck the rear of a 2020 BMW X3 driven by Angela Vecchio, 72, of West Cornwall. Pokorny was issued a written warning for following too closely. There were no injuries and Pokorny’s vehicle was towed from the scene.

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

submitting the required documents remains unchanged.

Those include a soil scientist’s report identifying, describing and classifying wetlands and watercourses and delineating their boundaries, along with an A-2 survey supporting the findings.

“Let’s get the information and see where we are,” commission Chair Vivian Garfein said.



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Pond and driveway built without permit: commission

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Inland Wetlands Commission upheld a cease and correct order issued to Seth Churchill for work he allegedly performed without a permit.

At its Tuesday, Oct. 13, meeting, the commission reviewed the Oct. 7 order, which cites Churchill for removing vegetation, creating a pond and driveway, and carrying out site work on his 144 Salmon Kill Road property without the required permit.

The alleged violations were identified through an aerial photograph and a real estate listing. The driveway is also visible from Salmon Kill Road.

Miles Todaro, the commission’s land use specialist, said the work took place between 2019 and 2023.

Churchill said “there was always standing water” where the pond is now located.

“There was silt coming in from the neighboring field going into the [Salmon Kill] river, so I thought let’s create a body of water.”

Sharon median home price remains above \$700K

By Christine Bates

SHARON — Sharon’s median single-family home sale price rose 18% over the past year, reaching \$710,000 for the 12 months ending Sept. 30, 2026, compared with \$600,000 a year earlier.

The median, which ex-

cludes condominiums, was 3% below the \$730,000 recorded for the 12 months ending Sept. 30, 2024.

A total of 38 single-family homes sold during the latest 12-month period, compared with 40 a year earlier and 33 two years prior. Sharon’s busiest 12-month period ended in May 2021, when 87 homes sold during the pandemic.

In mid-October, 29 single-family homes were listed for sale, with inventory holding steady.

Eleven had asking prices above \$1 million, while 11 were listed below the current median sale price of \$710,000.

Land inventory also remained stable, with 15 parcels listed on the MLS at prices ranging from \$135,000 to \$1.25 million. Four parcels were smaller than 10 acres.

Thirteen homes were listed for rent, including nine offered furnished on an annual basis and three seeking

winter tenants.

Sharon September Transfers

80 Upper Main Street – 2 bedroom/1.5 bath home on .49 acres transferred by James Whitten and Nancy Bird McKown to Patricia McNamee for \$725,000

55 Hospital Hill Road – 3 bedroom/1 bath home on .26 acres transferred by Rory O’Connor to Hig Homes LLC for \$215,000

8 Hunting Ridge Road 3 -bedroom/3 bath home on 5.73 acres transferred by Lynn Cline to George and Kylie Haydock for \$800,000

91 Amenia Road – 2 bedroom/1 bath home on .2 acres transferred by Debora Suby and Linda Buccheri-Smith to Alexander Kennedy for \$268,000

54 Morey Road – 18.5 acres transferred by James Gillespie to Tate Begley for \$75,000

84-86 Upper Main Street – 6 bedroom/2.5 bath home

transferred by Linda Elizabeth Larkin Estate of Linda Coyne to Brendan and Roxanne Lee for \$20,000

22 Luta Heights – 2 bedroom/1 bath bungalow on .18 acre transferred by Estate of Diana Clark to Sarah Pinckney Sellers for \$200,000

147 Main Street – 2 bedroom/1 bath residential commercial building transferred by 147 Main LLC to John Deamer for \$465,000

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



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Roxanne and Brendan Lee completed the acquisition of their family home at 84-86 Upper Main Street.

Send news tips to editor@lakevillejournal.com



THE SALISBURY FORUM

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A New Vision for an Ecological Era



Mary Evelyn Tucker



John Grim



Sam King

How can a larger story of who we are and where we come from inspire us to create a better future? Join the co-producers of the Emmy Award-winning film *Journey of the Universe* as they introduce *Living Earth Community* — a knowledge commons exploring the profound intelligences of nature. They will explore how ancient cultural wisdom and contemporary science are converging to guide us toward a new era of planetary health and flourishing.

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Our Towns

Kent reviews sign rules after residents' complaints

By Patrick Stachniak

KENT — After receiving several complaints from residents on the overabundance of signage in downtown Kent, the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) created a subcommittee last month to update the regulations to ensure the town maintains its small-town feel.

The Subcommittee of Signage Regulations Revisions has met three times and plans to have the revised rules ready by 2027.

The subcommittee is composed of existing P&Z members as well as other community leaders, such as Kent Memorial Library Executive Director Sarah Marshall and Fife 'n Drum Restaurant & Inn Owner Elissa Potts, bringing both commission and local business perspectives to the review.

According to Land Use Administrator Tai Kern, the rules and regulations are "outdated" and have been in need of revisions for some time now.

"The signage has gotten to a point where it's getting a little bit much, and we got some complaints, which ultimately forced the commission to create a subcommittee," said Kern.

While the revisions are being developed, all meetings, materials and proposed changes can be found online. Currently, the subcommittee has addressed issues such as the size of internally illuminated signs that can increase light pollution.

In an open letter to Kern and the subcommittee, one



PHOTO BY PATRICK STACHNIAK

Downtown Kent, where a Planning and Zoning Commission subcommittee is reviewing sign regulations following residents' complaints about excessive signage.

Kent resident stated the need for the updated rules:

"Visitors come to Kent and easily imagine what it was like to live in a small, friendly community in a simpler time. Kent's understated charm is evocative. The human scale of the town invites our visitors

to come here to unwind and imagine a life with a slower pace, fewer complications, and fewer assaults on the senses," wrote John Casey concerning Kent Green.

Casey and Kern both said that the revisions will be less about enforcement and more

focused on clarification on how best to attract weekend visitors and tourists without disrupting the architectural standards of Kent.

According to Kern, many visitors can miss the small businesses located beyond the railroad track that runs through Kent, and the subcommittee's ultimate goal is to "promote economic growth" for everyone in town.

"The village center has this quintessential New England kind of character. Especially this time of year, all the leaf peepers, everybody comes, so it's a very touristy kind of destination," said Kern. "Nobody really wants to see anything too cluttered or too outrageous, because it would change why people come here in the first place."

Kern said a public hearing on the proposed revisions is expected in 2027, although no official timeline has been set.

Falls Village to vote on ambulance, building improvements

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Voters will consider supplemental appropriations for a new ambulance, dehumidifiers for the Town Hall basement, and painting the Senior Center at a town meeting Monday, Oct. 26, at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

The requests, discussed by the Board of Selectmen at its Tuesday, Oct. 13, meeting, are \$113,000 for the ambulance, up to \$7,000 for

the dehumidifiers and up to \$5,000 for the painting.

First Selectman Dave Barger said the painting appropriation would supplement a state grant that is expected to fall short of covering the full cost. He said he wants to ensure the work is completed.

In other business, Selectman Judy Jacobs reported that new signs identifying the Historic District have been installed.

Jacobs also said the state

has no interest in paying to refurbish the deteriorating historic marker on the town Green. Bill Beebe and Denny Jacobs plan to undertake the work themselves.

The board accepted the resignations of Cheryl Aeschliman and Frank Hadsell from the Village Historic District Study Committee and appointed Anne Bidou to the committee.

The selectmen also appointed Stephanie Astrow as cemetery sexton.

North Canaan weighs two-year pause on data centers, battery storage

By Patrick Stachniak

NORTH CANAAN — The Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing Nov. 9 on a proposed two-year moratorium on data centers and battery energy storage facilities, giving town officials time to study how to regulate the uses.

The commission has discussed the proposal with the Board of Selectmen as officials consider potential land requirements and effects on the electrical grid.

"I think it's something that needs some research and study before we just add it into our regulations and definitions or we jump to a conclusion to prohibit," said P&Z Chair Michael O'Connor.

The proposed moratorium would provide time to research the facilities and consider zoning rules governing future applications. O'Connor said officials also want "time to absorb what the state of Connecticut is doing."

The commission previously discussed a moratorium in September, when Cornwall announced it was considering a ban on both types of facility.

Data centers house computer servers and related equipment. Battery energy storage systems store electricity for later use.

A proposed battery storage project in New Milford illustrates the scale of development being considered in the region.

An October 2025 draft application describes a 140-megawatt facility off Aspetuck Ridge Road that would occupy approximately 10 acres. The application identifies access to transmission infrastructure, the ability to connect to the grid and suitable land.

Connecticut has also established incentives for energy storage. The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority created the Energy Storage Solutions program in 2021, with a goal of deploying 580 megawatts of storage capacity by 2030.

The Nov. 9 hearing will give residents an opportunity to comment on the proposed moratorium.



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Maria Horn

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- Secured more than \$10 million to protect forest, farmland, and open space across our towns



Vote Early or Vote on Election Day November 3rd

Approved by Maria Horn. Paid for by Maria Horn for 64, Shelley Harms, treasurer.

Cornwall firefighters showcase equipment, preview new trucks at open house

By Ruth Epstein

CORNWALL — The Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department held an open house Sunday where it showcased its equipment and explained the services its members provide to keep townspeople safe.

With the fire engines and ambulances on full display, excited children were given the experience of climbing onto and into the vehicles. An occasional loud horn could be heard even from a distance as young hands touched all the knobs and buttons.

At one point, Captain Ian Ridgway addressed the attendees to describe the two new trucks that have been recently purchased by the department. The trucks are now being built and should be delivered by next August.

One is a six-seater, he explained, that will replace a two-seater, allowing more firefighters in the vehicle. The

second truck is not as big and will better enable access to smaller locations.

“These trucks will allow us to respond more quickly, since they will hold equipment that will help us to be ready to go where seconds really matter; to bolster our response time,” he said.

The cost for the two is \$700,000. The department raised over half by private donations, with the town’s contribution at \$200,000. The goal was exceeded and the remainder will be put toward certain equipment, gear and extrication and battery-powered tools.

The trucks are being built by Greenwoods Emergency Vehicles in Attleboro, Mass.

The department’s current fleet contains six trucks: four are housed at the West Cornwall firehouse and two at the Cornwall Bridge firehouse.

Also speaking at the event was Bill Dinneen, who oversees the local Wreaths Across

Children explore emergency vehicles during the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department’s open house Sunday, Oct. 18.

America project that places wreaths on the headstones of veterans and first responders.

Dinneen said the goal is to purchase 175 wreaths at \$17 per wreath. Donations may be sent to Dinneen at 102 Popple Swamp Road, Cornwall Bridge 06754. For further information, contact Dinneen at billdinneen@yahoo.com or call/text 860-248-1543.

The wreaths will be placed at Cornwall Cemetery and North Cornwall Cemetery on Dec. 19 at noon. Volunteers are needed to participate in the ceremony.



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Sharon sewer and water rate increase heads to finance board

By Patrick Stachniak

SHARON — For the first time in more than two decades, the Sharon Sewer & Water Commission (SSWC) has proposed hiking rates for both sewer and water users, citing several “major hits” to the system this past year.

If approved by the Board of Finance, residents who use the town services face a 23% increase beginning in 2027.

In an Oct. 13 meeting, the Selectmen voted to approve the increase, which will now be sent to the Board of Finance for review. About 300 homes near the town green are connected to Sharon’s sewer and water system and would be affected. Most homes rely on private wells and septic systems.

Sharon residents who are connected to the town’s sewer and water systems are likely to face a \$200 annual increase. Homeowners who only utilize the sewer will see an increase of \$20.88 quarterly.

Despite that increase, the SSWC says it charges one of the lowest prices for the service in the Northwest Corner.

SSWC Chairman Stephen Szalewicz said burst pipes last winter and other damage played a role in the hike. During a freeze in January, one of the largest water mains in town burst. The repairs cost the town nearly four times the cost of an average pipe repair, which is typically around \$20,000-\$25,000.

Sharon’s water woes continued when a state road work crew damaged another pipe several months later. Though the SSWC is appealing to the state to cover the \$20,000 price tag, it is unsure whether the state will cover the cost.

In July, the 35-year-old water plant generator failed and is not repairable. The plant is now powered by a rented generator for \$4,000 a month until a new one can be purchased, which the SSWC estimates will cost \$60,000.

Additionally, routine

maintenance on the plant’s lagoons, which the state requires to store water while the plant is back-washed for cleaning, cost even more than typical after the town was forced to find a new company.

According to Szalewicz, very few companies offer the service and Wind River Environmental, based in Massachusetts, quoted the SSWC \$110,000 for it: five times the traditional cost.

In total, the broken pipes, generator and additional service charges cost Sharon an extra \$240,000 in 2026, depleting the commission’s reserve funds.

While waiting for the new income from the rate increase, the SSWC also applied for a loan from NBT Bank to help cover the charges and pay for the generator and more scheduled maintenance on the plant.

“An increase in rates is prudent given what inflation has done over the past 20-

some years,” said First Selectman Casey Flanagan. “[The SSWC] has to meet certain requirements imposed on them by the state and make sure things are working properly with 100-year-old pipes in the ground and a facility that’s 30-some years old.”

Flanagan acknowledged the strain on residents living on fixed incomes but said the SSWC needs sufficient reserves to address problems as they arise. The commission is considering raising rates further in the coming years, but believes the current increase is “a good place.”

“It’s the reality. Things are more expensive than they were 20 years ago and they need to catch back up,” Flanagan said. “This is why you need to have reserves built up with aging infrastructure like they have. And why this rate increase is necessary, because they do need to build their cash position so that when another pipe breaks, they can fix it.”



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LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice
CONNECTICUT -- All Registrars of Voters' offices in Connecticut will hold a statewide voter registration session from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM. This is the last regular session for admission of electors who have turned 18, become a US citizen, or moved to Connecticut. This deadline includes registration by mail which must be post marked by this day, registration at DMV by close of business, Online registrations must be completed by 11:59 pm or in person by 8:00 pm. Residents of Norfolk can register at Norfolk Town Hall, Registrar's Office, 19 Maple Ave, Norfolk CT November 2, 2026

CONNECTICUT -- All Registrars of Voters' offices in Connecticut will hold a statewide voter registration session from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. This is a limited registration session for admission of electors who have turned 18, become a US citizen, or moved to Connecticut since October 16th of this year. This registration session is also open to members of the Armed Forces, and former Armed Forces members who have been discharged within the calendar year. The Norfolk CT session will be held at Norfolk Town Hall, Registrar's Office, 19 Maple Ave, Norfolk CT 06058

10-22-26
10-29-26

to recover on such claim. The fiduciary is: Maureen F. Dell 172 Farnum Road Lakeville, CT 06039

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10-22-26

TAX COLLECTOR TOWN OF SALISBURY CT LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to Sec. 12-145 of the Connecticut Statutes, the taxpayers of the Town of Salisbury are hereby notified that the second installment on the Grand List of October 1, 2025 is due and payable on October 1, 2026. Payments must be received or postmarked by November 2, 2026. If said Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are not paid on or before November 2, 2026 interest at the rate of 1 1/2% (18% per year) will be added for each month or a fraction thereof which elapses from the time when such tax becomes due and payable until the same is paid. Minimum interest charge is \$2.00. Taxes can be paid by mail addressed to: Tax Collector, P.O. BOX 338, Salisbury CT 06068 or Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Salisbury CT. There is a drop box in the vestibule of the Town Hall available 9am-4pm, Monday — Friday or the 24-hour drop box on the back side of the building off Factory Street. Tax Office is open Mon and Wed, 9am-4pm and Friday 9am — 3pm closed for lunch 12:30pm -1:30pm. The Town is urging taxpayers to use the option to pay by credit card or e-check. Please go to the Town website salisburyct.us, View/PayTaxes Tab. Dated at Salisbury, CT this 2nd day of September, 2026.

JoAnne D. Dodge, CCMC
Tax Collector
09-24-26
10-08-26
10-22-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF STEPHEN MICHAEL BRANDT
Late of Lakeville (26-00394)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated September 28, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights

Kent Community Fund marks 20 years, more than \$700,000 in grants

By Ruth Epstein

KENT — The Kent Community Fund celebrated its 20th anniversary Oct. 16 at Kent Town Hall, marking two decades of helping residents meet emergency needs and supporting local charitable programs.

The volunteer-run nonprofit has awarded more than \$700,000 in grants since its founding in 2006.

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal praised the fund’s work and commitment to helping neighbors.

“What you have done here is inspirational,” he told guests at the reception. “It’s really about community.”

Founding member and current board member Lorry Schiesel traced the fund’s roots to Charlie and Lucy Tremont, a local couple who supplied holiday food baskets.

Residents organized the fund in January 2006 and secured nonprofit status that November to help neighbors meet emergency needs and support charitable programs.



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal presents a certificate of recognition to Catherine Bachrach, a founding member of the Kent Community Fund, during a 20th anniversary celebration of the fund on Oct. 16.

George Jacobson and Jim Palmer recruited founding donors, raising \$44,346 for an endowment. After Palmer’s death in 2010, the board established programs for seniors in his memory.

The fund supports the Kent Food Bank and helps children attend summer camp, after-school programs, Kent Community Nursery School, and Park and Recreation programs. With Kent Memorial Library, it sponsors Dolly Parton’s Imagina-

tion Library, providing free monthly books to children.

A 2018 merger with the Kent Nursing Association expanded its mission to include community health and assistance with health care needs and financial emergencies.

Board member Joe Speranzo served as emcee for the event, emphasizing that the fund has no paid staff and its board members are volunteers.

Also attending was state Rep. Maria Horn of the 64th

District.

“This is what it’s all about; caring for neighbors. The Kent Community Fund quietly goes about its work and makes it happen. Neighbor is now a verb. It’s happening here in Kent. It reminds me we are a community,” Horn said.

First Selectman Eric Epstein, who was out of town, sent a letter in which he said, “A strong community is built on people who care about their neighbors and are willing to step up to help others.

The Kent Community Fund is a wonderful example of that spirit and we are fortunate to have an organization so dedicated to supporting our town. As we celebrate this important anniversary, we recognize not only all that has been accomplished over the past 20 years, but also the positive impact the fund will continue to have in the years ahead.”

Both Blumenthal and Horn presented citations to founding board member Catherine Bachrach, who recently stepped down.

OBITUARIES

Ronald Decker Jr.

MILLERTON — It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Ronald Owen Decker Jr. of Millerton, New York on Oct. 6, 2026, at the age of 58.

Ronald was born on Oct. 29, 1967, in Sharon, Connecticut to the late Catherine Spaulding and Ronald Decker Sr.

Known affectionately as Ronnie, he was a beloved chef for many years at various private schools in the Millerton, and Connecticut areas. He enjoyed cooking for others and lending a helping hand to anyone in need. Ronnie cherished spending time with family and making people smile. His kindness always shined bright.

Ronnie and his brother Steve spent many years together driving tractor-trailers before Ronnie returned to the kitchen.



Those left to cherish his memory include his son, Christopher Johnson, and his partner, Sara LeBaron; two grandsons; his close cousin, John Wilson (JR); his niece, Tiffany Brown, and her spouse, Sean Brown; and his great-niece, Elianna Decker. Ronnie also leaves behind other cousins and great-nieces and great-nephews. His father, Ronald Decker Sr., had other children whom Ronnie leaves behind: Kevin Decker, Dawn Decker, and Heidi Piefer.

Ronald is also predeceased by his brother, Steven Decker; his late wife, Joanne Decker; and Timothy Decker.

He will be dearly missed by everyone who knew him. A small celebration of life in Ronnie's memory will be held at a date to be determined.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

DOVER PLAINS — Lelah M. Somers, 97, a longtime Dover Plains, New York, resident, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026, at Ferncliff Nursing Home in Rhinebeck, New York. Lelah was born on July 3, 1929, in Pawling, New York, to the late Byron and Lelah (Watts) Brill. Lelah grew up in Pawling and on Nov. 22, 1946, in Pleasant Valley, New York, she married James F. Somers, Sr. Mr. Somers passed away on Sept. 3, 1970. Lelah worked for New York State as a therapy aide for thirty-years and as a senior companion for New York State for thirty-two-years, with specific care provided to the mentally disabled.

Celebration of Life

Dona L. Chilcoat

Family and friends are invited to gather in loving memory of Dona L. Chilcoat at a Celebration of Life on Saturday, November 7, 2026, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Lakeville Town Grove.

This informal gathering

She enjoyed taking care of the mentally disabled, was a wonderful mother to her four children, always putting her family first. She is survived by her son, James F. Somers, Jr. and his wife Donna of Dover Plains; two daughters, Doreen Monica of Wingdale, and Frances "Fran" Horton of Dover Plains, who was also her caregiver for many years; seven grandchildren, Debbie, Margie, Leah, Stephanie, Deirdra, Benji and Jimmy and several great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren, and many nieces and neph-



ews, and her step-son, Kenny Elliott. In addition to her parents and husband, Lelah was predeceased by her daughter and son-in-law, Carol "DeeDee" Maile and Gil Maile, her son-in-law, Stephen Monica, and her son-in-law, Benny Horton as well as her companion of over forty-years, Andrew "Mac" McAlravey and her siblings, Ferris Brill, Eleanor Barryann, Richard Brill, William Brill and Barney Brill.

Lelah was a loving mother and a strong willed and hard-working woman. She was an avid NASCAR fan for many years and traveled with her companion "Mac" up and down the east coast following the sport. Her favorite track was the Daytona International Speedway in Florida that they went to

every February to attend the Daytona 500 race. She loved her family so much and she will be dearly missed; she lived a long life and for that her family is deeply grateful.

Graveside services and burial will take place on Friday, Oct. 16, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. at Valley View Cemetery in Dover Plains, NY. Pastor Rick Totten will officiate. A reception in Lelah's honor will follow at the VFW Post # 5444, 3422 Route 22, Dover Plains, NY. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society or the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter. To send an online condolence to the family, flowers to the service or to plant a tree in Lelah's honor, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com Arrangements have been entrusted to Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546.

Carol McLaughlin Anderson

LAKEVILLE — Carol McLaughlin (Fenn) Anderson of Brunswick, Maine, died on Sept. 11, 2026. Carol was the daughter of the late Ray and Carolyn Mary (Everhard) McLaughlin and was predeceased by her sister, Nancy Peck. She was born March 23, 1932, in Ohio and moved to Sharon, Connecticut with her family in 1942. She graduated from Bassick High School in Bridgeport and then attended Connecticut College for Women and completed her education at Connecticut Teachers College in New Britain, earning a Bachelor's degree in education and Master's degree in mathematics. She raised her family in Canton, Connecticut and lived in Lakeville, Connecticut until she moved to Maine in 1992.

Carol's love of nature and being out of doors led her and first husband, Allyn Fenn, to downhill skiing as weekend volunteers for the Cata-mountain Ski Patrol in Hillsdale, New York. She also loved to sail, learning at a girls' camp on Moose Pond in Denmark, Maine and continuing throughout her life. She explored the waters of midcoast Maine with her late husband, Captain Robert Anderson, and Casco Bay with her family and close friend Bill Hetzel on sailboats big and small.

Carol was endlessly curious and loved to learn. She took classes, read books and articles, traveled, went to mu-

seums, and deeply listened to people. She shared her love of the world with others as a volunteer at the Maine Maritime Museum, a train host on the Downeaster, and both an elementary school and adult education teacher. An avid crossword puzzler and knitter, she always found a way to keep both her hands and her mind busy. She was active in her local churches, most recently St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Brunswick.

Carol's greatest joy, though, was her family. Carol is survived by her daughter, Deborah Driver, and her husband, Roy; her son, Christopher Fenn, and his wife, Liz; four grandchildren,



Krystal Fenn, Dustin Fenn, Kate Driver, and Josh Driver; and two great-grandchildren, Evan and Aidan Miller.

Carol found great delight in little things: a nice cup of tea, a walk, watching the birds, a baked apple or a slice of fresh bread, the view from atop a parking garage in Portland, or a few minutes parked next to the ocean. She knew how to appreciate life's small pleasures, remarking on one occasion while looking out over Casco Bay after a short cross country ski with her family, "aren't we lucky." She will be missed by many.

A private graveside service was held at Salisbury Cemetery in Salisbury, Connecticut on Oct. 14th. Memorial gifts can be made to the Maine Maritime Museum.

OUR TOWNS

Kent library on track for May reopening

By Patrick Stachniak

KENT — Kent Memorial Library is on track to reopen its expanded and renovated Main Street building by the end of May 2027, according to Janet Rivkin, executive vice president of the Kent Library Association board.

The project will expand the library from 6,450 to 11,750 square feet, increasing its space by about 82% and providing additional community gathering and event space for its growing arts program.

Construction has progressed "smoothly," Rivkin said. "It looks like we will be close to fully opening our doors by the end of May, which is a very fast track," she said.

Rivkin said landscaping may be the only work remaining at that time, with the community gathering and event space operational.

Other improvements include energy-efficiency upgrades, a generator and additional solar panels.

She cautioned, however, that construction schedules can change.

"Having been in construction, we all know that things change. My dad raised me to believe there could be



PHOTO BY PATRICK STACHNIAK

Construction continues on Kent Memorial Library's renovation and expansion.

a concrete strike and they'll set everything back," she said.

The project will connect the existing brick library at 32 North Main St. to the former firehouse next door.

During construction, the library is operating at 10-12 Landmark Lane on Kent Green. A ceremonial groundbreaking was held April 25, with Gov. Ned Lamont and U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes among those attending. Construction was already underway.

The project is slated to cost \$7 million, with most of the funding coming from

donations and \$2 million provided by a state grant.

Rivkin, who has spent her career in real estate, with experience in building inspections and quality control, said she became involved with the library in 2011 at the request of then-President Ken Cooper after a driver crashed into the historic building, requiring repairs.

Rivkin said her deep affinity for the Kent community has made seeing the expansion progress particularly rewarding.

"We're going to have much more space for activities, and we'll still have

the wonderful presence on Main Street, which has made it such a wonderful place for people... as our book sale is known throughout the Northeast," Rivkin said.

Kent Land Use Administrator Tai Kern said seeing the project take shape has offered a new perspective on its scale.

"We've worked through this whole project and saw it on paper and now seeing it come to fruition in its magnitude is pretty impressive," Kern said. "Sometimes seeing it in reality isn't exactly the same as seeing it on paper."

YOUR NEWS

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Worship Services

Week of October 25, 2026

Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon
9 South Main, Sharon CT
Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M.
Growing together in God's love
Rev. John Allison
Priest-In-Charge
All are welcome
860-364-5260
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
trinity@trinitylimerock.org
(860) 435-2627

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Worship services Sundays at 10 am
www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational
860-824-7252
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

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

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

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
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-364-5634
sharonumc5634@att.net

The Smithfield Presbyterian Church
656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY
Services every Sunday 10 a.m.
www.thesmithfieldchurch.org
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All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church
313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT
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Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M.
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860-824-1340 | allsaintsofamerica.us

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

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

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

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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
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Rev. Mary Gates

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860-824-5534
canaanct-umc.com
canaanctumc@gmail.com
We hope you will join us!

LET’S HEAR IT...

THIS WEEK

In neighboring Dutchess County, communities are exploring ways to share ambulance services to improve coverage and control costs.

What lessons, if any, could northwest Connecticut towns draw from these efforts? What benefits or challenges might come with greater cooperation among local ambulance services?

Send your responses to social@lakevillejournal.com by Monday, Oct. 26 at 10 a.m. or comment on Facebook or Instagram. We’ll publish a selection in next week’s paper.

LAST WEEK’S QUESTION

Should Region One establish a regional middle school for grades 7 and 8 at Housatonic Valley Regional High School?

“Having Kellogg as a middle school would be an easier transition for students, rather than finding space in the high school. They can still be bussed to the high school for sports (which is what currently happens anyway). Kellogg is right around the corner from the high school so they could even be on the same bus schedule.”

—Paige Clarke

“No! I think it’s wonderful that schools are from pre-K to eighth grade. I loved the experience being in the same school for eight years is amazing. You get to see your old teachers and you don’t have to grow up so fast. Moving hits to a middle school really changes the energy of everything in my opinion.”

—Janette Ireland

“YES, please! Our children need more than a couple kids in a classroom. NOT GOOD for the students, teachers OR taxpayers to have tiny classes of children. We learn best from each other, whether it’s the teacher, computer, fellow students, parents or friends. No brainer!”

—Mary M. Palmer

“This is a no brainer. Every rural area in America has moved to this model in regions as small as ours. Combining resources and kids makes everyone stronger.”

—Adam Turner

“No, do not mix 7-8 and high schoolers. Not something to be messed with in this day in age. I didn’t like the impact it had on the kids in Northwestern.”

—Lawrence Granman

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time for Tong to go

Connecticut voters need to send Attorney General William Tong into retirement. Tong has spent the last four years building his national profile as an activist left-wing attorney general rather than focusing on his real job of looking after the interests of Connecticut residents.

In his ego-driven quest to advance his career, he has used our tax dollars to file more than 65 lawsuits against the Trump administration. More recently, he had Connecticut join in the ill-fated lawsuit to block the merger of Paramount and Warner Brothers. This is a misuse of state resources and an abuse of office.

John Bolton offers voters a refreshing change in November. John has practiced law in Westport for over 35 years and served on Westport’s Planning and Zoning Commission. John will return the Attorney General’s office to its true purpose: looking out for the interests

of Connecticut residents and taxpayers.

Mr. Bolton will, for example, use his office to fight for affordable electric rates, such as advocating for Connecticut ratepayers before state regulators. He will help to protect our environment, such as by using his office to stop the flow of raw sewage down the Connecticut River from Massachusetts. He will protect Connecticut consumers, such as investigating AI-based pricing that disadvantages Connecticut consumers. And he will support local law enforcement efforts and work with Connecticut State Attorneys to fight crime.

It is time to have an Attorney General who will look out for the interests of Connecticut residents instead of making a name for himself in national “progressive” circles. John Bolton should be our next Attorney General.

Janet Lynn
Former Republican
Registrar of Voters
Salisbury

Horn listens and is focused on local issues

On November 3rd, we will be very happy to vote for Maria Horn to be our representative in Hartford. Her record and focus on local issues is unmatched – finance, working families, education, environment and solid waste, to name a few.

She listens and puts her heart and intellect into issues before making decisions, and

this has given her leadership in Hartford that benefits us all. We are looking forward to November 3rd and a new chapter for Maria to help our towns with the important decisions that lie ahead.

Thank you,
Curtis Rand,
Salisbury
Gordon Ridgway,
Cornwall

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

The 5th District debate: Hayes has it

Who in their right mind would step up to run as a Republican this year? Let’s face it, when you have no legislation to be proud of, there’s not a lot you can point to.

In contrast, it was clear from last Tuesday’s debate that Democratic US Rep. Jahana Hayes is well-versed in the issues. On January 3rd, she’s ready to hit the Halls of Congress running, even if she has to climb over Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO) as he repeats his 2021 mad dash to the exit.

In a likely Democratic Majority House, Rep. Hayes plans to confront the reckless, heartless reallocation of wealth in Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill. Citing cuts to Medicaid (a trillion dollars

and cuts to SNAP (\$187 billion), she vowed, “My very first action when I get back is to rescind some of these cuts.”

As a member of the Agriculture Committee, she cares about Connecticut’s small farmers: “The cost of diesel has increased the cost of everything. Many farmers couldn’t get fertilizer because the Strait of Hormuz is closed, and that’s not how you plan out the next season.” In addition, she reminded us “This is the committee that feeds children, and hungry kids don’t learn.”

And as the most qualified member of Congress, she also plans to run for Chairman of the Education and Workforce Commit-

tee: “What is happening to the Department of Education right now is disgraceful. Connecticut stands to lose \$53million in federal reimbursements. Parents won’t be able to meet their mandated special education needs.”

We shouldn’t be surprised by what we witnessed at the Nonnewaug High School debate: one candidate had no concrete plans and nothing to say with his extra debate time. The other, Congresswoman Hayes, is in a hurry to get back to Congress to start realigning its priorities:

“I’m not willing to turn over my civil rights or constitutional rights on the slight chance that the President might get it right when he

has a track record of getting it wrong over and over and over again.”

The 5th District is lucky to have a candidate who hasn’t lost an ounce of energy after 8 years in office: “I wanted to be the Congresswoman that I needed someone to be for me, and now I am.”

Yes you are, Jahana! It was a real pleasure to hear you debate once again with such passion, command of the facts, and belief in our future. The students in the audience could see you meant it when you reminded us “This is serious.”

All the way with Hayes and the Democratic candidates in Row A.

Molly Fitzmaurice
Sharon

Time to end one-party rule

For the past 16 years, Democrats have enjoyed one-party rule in Hartford. Throughout that time they have controlled the Governorship, both houses of the State Legislature and every statewide office in Connecticut.

As a result, the Democrats own the state’s economic record. That record is not favorable:

~ A recent study disclosed that Connecticut is among the five least affordable states in the country. A related study found that an astounding 84% of residents say that Connecticut is unaffordable and 40% say they would like to move to another state.

~ Connecticut’s unemployment rate is 5.2%, tying California, Washington

and Oregon for the highest unemployment rate in the country. Moreover, the latest employment report shows that Connecticut’s labor force has shrunk by 50,000 people over the past 18 months.

~ An obvious reason for the State’s unemployment and workforce problem can be found in a CNBC survey of Top States for Business; that survey found that Connecticut is near the bottom in every one of the ten categories of business competitiveness measurements.

Ryan Fazio wants to change all this. Serving as a State Senator since 2021, he has been a leading voice for cutting electric rates, including the so-called “public benefits” charge, cutting the state income tax, making

Connecticut more business-friendly for small business owners and eliminating hundreds of unfunded state mandates on our towns. He has also been a voice for resisting the concentration of power in Hartford, such as the Democrats’ push for statewide zoning and a statewide property tax.

Recent TV commercials by Governor Lamont portray Ryan as “too extreme for Connecticut” and as part of “the extreme MAGA wing of the GOP.” But the Governor’s own past words show that this charge is a lie. Last year, Lamont credited Ryan with helping to negotiate and pass a bill authorizing \$300 million in state bond funding. As Lamont told reporters: “He (Fazio) was somebody that

we were able to work with. We came together with an energy bill that makes sense.”

Ryan Fazio’s reputation as a moderate Republican who simply wants what is best for Connecticut is why he has twice been re-elected to the State Senate where he is well liked on both sides of the aisle. And it is undoubtedly the reason he has received the endorsement of the Independent Party of Connecticut, the state’s third-largest political party.

Connecticut needs an end to one-party rule in Hartford. Ryan Fazio should be our next Governor.

Tom Morrison
Chair,
Salisbury Republican
Town Committee
Lakeville

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 13 Thursday, October 22, 2026

Mission Statement

LJMN Media, Inc. Publishers of

The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News

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

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

Viewpoint

Teletherapy: Promise or problem?

By most estimates, rural areas like ours are vastly underserved by healthcare providers. No-where has this been truer than in mental health. When I moved to Salisbury and opened my therapy practice, there was only a tiny handful of mental health professionals in the area. New patients often arrived in my office exhaling with relief at having finally found a therapist within reasonable driving distance of home.

I found myself revisiting that period recently while working on a presentation on mental health services to be held on October 29 at the Scoville Memorial Library. My co-presenter and I were assembling a list of mental health services in the area and noticed that when we consulted the Psychology Today “Find a Therapist” website, a useful first stop for locating therapists in a particular geographic area, many more providers seemed to come up.

Are we witnessing a sudden flood of therapists relocating to our rural communities? More likely what we are seeing is the flowering of teletherapy – therapists who do not actually live here but treat patients here via teletherapy. During the pandemic, many therapists like me took advantage of the temporary suspension of many states’ licensing restrictions so they could practice in states that, at least temporarily, permitted therapists to practice without being licensed there. This allowed them to main-

GUEST COMMENTARY FLORA E. LAZAR

tain continuity of care without violating state licensing laws when either they or their patients relocated. It also had the unintended effect of briefly creating what amounted to a national market for therapists. People needing help in underserved areas could suddenly draw from a whole new pool of therapists outside their state.

Although this leniency turned out to be short-lived, the boom in teletherapy uncovered an untapped market, sparking the development of a new breed of mental health organization focused on helping therapists obtain licensure and market themselves outside their home states. One leading company in the practice management field, Headway, explicitly identified rural communities as part of its marketing strategy, reporting that in 2023 its network completed 155,000 appointments in rural areas.

This is an undeniable benefit for communities like ours. Some care is often better than no care. Teletherapy was genuinely helpful to some of my own patients who needed more frequent sessions but could not accommodate added travel time. More frequent therapy may even have shortened their time in treatment. For others, teletherapy helped

them disclose experiences, such as sexual violence, without the immediacy of being physically present with a therapist.

For all its potential benefits, telehealth also has some notable limitations. Physical observations, such as significant weight changes, can provide important clues to a patient’s emotional state but can be difficult to detect through a screen. In high-needs cases, therapists practicing far from their patients’ communities may lack knowledge of local resources, especially when emergencies arise.

Most significantly, the growth of teletherapy does little to address one of the biggest ongoing challenges to increasing mental health service access – the pivotal role of insurance companies in increasing patients’ access to care and fostering providers’ willingness to participate in insurance plans. The involvement of insurers in financing practice management groups like Headway has raised serious question about whether the investors’ incentives to control costs will ultimately conflict with the goal of expanding access to appropriate care? In a 2025 survey of 667 mental-health professionals, the Psychotherapy Action Network, a research and advocacy group, reported that 85 percent of respondents said they would not use a practice-management company if they knew an insurance company had a large ownership stake in it. Their concern, which should

be taken seriously in assessing the likely impact of such groups, is that pressure to minimize costs could take precedence over clinical judgment and quality of care. How these organizations balance cost and access will help determine whether they deliver the affordable, continuous care they promise.

The good news is that we do not need to depend entirely on private companies, with incentives that can pit clinical and financial interests, to create a system that enables therapists to practice in rural areas even if they do not live there. Many states, including Connecticut, are rolling out interstate licensing “compacts” that allow approved therapists to practice legally in Connecticut even though they may live and be licensed in another state. They can play an influential role in reducing regulatory barriers to the provision of services by therapists outside rural areas even if they do not, themselves ensure affordability and insurance coverage. Although one such compact is now operational for psychologists, the state and professional groups should be doing all they can do to complete the implementation of similar compacts for other mental health professionals like social workers and counselors.

Flora E. Lazar, Ph.D., is a retired clinical social worker and historian interested in evolution of mental health services in the United States.



PHOTO BY BILL WAKELEY, SHARON, CT

Fall photo contest

Fall in our region is quickly becoming one of my favorite times of the year. Everyone is still riding the high of a summer full of activities, but now, instead of lemonade and ice cream, we’re indulging in pumpkin spice and apple crumble.

Even better than the seasonal treats, fall festivities and no mosquitos is the beautiful scenery that transforms our backyards, commutes and evening walks.

Quiet back roads, hidden woodland trails and rolling

fields are just part of what makes autumn so brilliant. Golden, amber and crimson leaves blanket the communities we call home, turning even the most familiar places into something special.

We asked our community to share their favorite fall photos, and I’m excited to share some of the beautiful scenes they’ve captured. Be sure to visit our website to see all the photos!

— Madi Long, Audience Development Editor



DEB SEGALLA-WATSON, MILL POND, SHEFFIELD, MA

Will the midterms matter?

With the midterm elections less than two weeks away, Democrats are heavily favored to take control of the House of Representatives and slightly favored to take control of the Senate. Both sides have described the election in near-apocalyptic terms. Professor Timothy Snyder, author of “On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century,” maintains that it is “probably the most consequential election since the eighteenth century.” Mike Johnson, the Republican Speaker of the House, calls it the “most important” election in United States history.

But will it really make that much of a difference? After all, regardless of who wins, a convicted fraudster/sexual predator/insurrectionist will still occupy the Oval Office for two more years, and he will still be capable of inflicting immense damage on our democracy and the world. This is the man who, just in the past week or so:

- Openly supported the murderous dictator Putin in his war to take over our democratic ally Ukraine, both by lifting existing sanctions on Russia’s sale of diesel fuel and by refusing to implement new Russia sanctions in a bill that he just signed into law last month. This revolting turn of events was described by numerous Republican senators as “a gift to our adversary and a betrayal of our allies.”
- Authorized a dawn raid on the home of a sitting Congresswoman by the Department of Homeland Security in an effort to strip her of her citizenship and deport her. Congresswoman Omar, who became a citizen 26 years ago, has long been an outspoken Trump critic and a target of his racist rants, and the raid was a

GUEST COMMENTARY JAMES SPEYER

naked display of retribution, persecution and intimidation.

- Called for the execution of government employees who leak sensitive information to the press, and told a crowd at his rally that journalists were “almost as bad.”
- Posted snuff films online of people being mauled and killed by animals.

And yet, there is reason to believe that the outcome of the midterms will very much matter. In practical terms, control of the House would give Democrats control of all House committees. This would give them the power to conduct investigations, compel testimony and the production of documents, and hold public hearings. To be sure, shining a light on and further uncovering the depredations of Trump and his administration would not by itself result in accountability. But it would be an important first step towards accountability.

Among other things, a Democratic victory would enable Congress to investigate this administration’s unprecedented carnival of corruption and self-enrichment. A tiny fraction of these activities includes the \$420 million 747 Trump accepted from a foreign country, the funding of his son’s wedding by a Russian mobster with close ties to Putin, the increase in Trump’s net worth while in office by over \$3 billion, Kimberly Guilfoyle’s shakedown of a donor to pay her \$100,000 AMEX debt, border czar Tom Homan’s acceptance of \$50,000 in a

paper bag from undercover FBI agents, Jared Kushner’s numerous business deals in the Middle East and with Russia while he serves as Trump’s envoy to these regions, rampant insider stock trading, the outright sale of presidential pardons, and the curbing of antitrust and IRS enforcement for donors to the president.

A Democratic win would also enable the investigation of dozens of other issues, such as:

- The multiple abuses of ICE, including the killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti and the mistreatment of people held in ICE detention centers;
- The Defense Department’s extrajudicial killings of dozens of people on the high seas, explained only by the unsupported assertion that they were running drugs;
- The dismantling of the Agency for International Development, which has been responsible for saving millions of lives around the world;
- Massive cutbacks and a leadership purge at the Centers for Disease Control, formerly the world’s premier public health agency, that have endangered public health;
- The true extent of the damage sustained by our military bases in the Mideast due to the Iran War, as well as an accurate accounting of

all military personnel killed or wounded; and

- The decimation of the top ranks of the military by Pete Hegseth, who has created a dangerous leadership vacuum by firing dozens of exemplary generals and other top officers without explanation.

If Democrats win control of the Senate as well as the House, they will be in a position to block confirmation of Trump-supported judges, including nominees to the Supreme Court. During their confirmation hearings, Trump’s appointees have consistently refused to acknowledge the irrefutable fact that Joe Biden won the 2020 election. That refusal does not bode well for their ability to impartially decide matters involving this administration, and underscores the importance of the Senate’s confirmation power.

A sound thumping of Trump’s candidates at the polls would also give us something perhaps more valuable than congressional power: Hope. Hope that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Hope that our long national nightmare may soon be over. Hope that we can begin repairing the staggering damage wrought by Trump and his minions.

James Speyer is a lawyer and a volunteer for Lawyers Defending American Democracy. He lives in Sharon.



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Casting into the wind at the Town Farm

On Saturday, Oct. 17, I made my debut as a casting instructor at the Autumn at the Town Farm event in Falls Village. Over the decades I have coached various people, usually newcomers, and once in a while it results in a trout in the net. More frequently it concludes with gales of helpless laughter. But this is the first time I have ever been presented to the public as some sort of expert.

The initial idea was that I would stand in the Hollenbeck River, which winds through the Town Farm property, and catch fish expertly while throngs of spectators gasped in awe.

I pointed out that a) I have never fished that stretch of the river b) the likelihood of catching anything with people watching from the bank and scaring the fish was low and c) there is nothing on earth as boring as watching someone else fish.

You don't believe me on that last item? There's an easy test.

Wait for a stream to be stocked, grab a camera, go to the stream, find someone fishing, and hang around, ready to capture the action.

It will be a long wait. I suggested casting demonstration and instruction instead, so that's what we did.

The Town Farm is also known as the Recreation Center. The main feature is the swimming pool.

It is quite possibly the windiest location in Falls



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN
 Patrick Sullivan advises Paul Zhan at the Town Farm.



Tangled Lines
 Patrick L. Sullivan

Village.

The refreshing breeze is just dandy when it is 90 degrees in August.

On this day it was more along the lines of an Arctic blast.

I set up a rickety card table to the north of the pool, next to the playground equipment. The idea here was to be at some distance from the general revelry since we would be slinging pointy things around.

I also removed the hooks completely from half a dozen bass poppers, reasoning nobody can get hooked if there are no hooks.

I also had Lakeville Journal swag, which promptly blew off the card table. Thinking fast, I secured the

t-shirts and caps with a set of wading boots that still had some river muck on the soles.

In the fashion world an intentionally ripped garment is referred to as "distressed." I am proud to announce that Tangled Lines and The Lakeville Journal have now pioneered the similar concept of "slightly muddy." If we add any or all of the terms "small batch," "heritage," "vintage," "sustainable," and "artisanal" we will clean up.

Anyway, it was cold and windy and I had about eight customers, starting with Greer Sallick, who was doing a fly-tying demo in the poolhouse and helped me set up.

He was very interested in one of my late father's old Orvis bamboo rods, an eight-foot three-piece Battenkill that can accommodate lines from #4 to #6 without difficulty.

On this occasion I had a #6 double tapered line on it. Sallick took a few introduc-

tory swipes and made noises indicative of joy and merriment.

Courtesy of the D.M. Hunt Library, there were brightly colored hula hoops set up at 20-foot intervals. In no time Sallick was dropping the fly into the 40 foot hoop.

Dan Carr of Falls Village said he owns a fly rod but hasn't used it much. I gave him an Echo Base nine-foot rod with a #6 weight forward line on it. It's a much better tool for teaching a newbie than a heavy antique like the Battenkill.

We got the basic motion down in short order, and spent some time on deploying the off hand and false casting for distance.

He too was hitting the 40 foot mark soon enough.

I had a couple more adults and a few youngsters too, and I told them all the same thing. In five decades of fly-fishing, I have caught thousands of fish, and 90% of them were within 40 feet of me.

Bombing out hero casts of 60-plus feet can be fun and looks nice from the bank, but as a practical matter the long cast is usually a waste of effort.

Consistent, controlled casting in short to medium distances puts more fish in the net.

It was all good clean fun, if a bit nippy. At about 3:15 p.m. interest in casting had died down. I made a beeline for a cup of hot coffee from the eighth graders at Lee H. Kellogg School and joined what seemed like almost everyone else in huddling around the fire pit.



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN
 Falls Village Recreation Director Allycia Soule primps a scarecrow before it gets judged at Saturday's Autumn at the Town Farm event in Falls Village.

Autumn at Town Farm brings fall fun despite the chill

By Ruth Epstein

FALLS VILLAGE – Chilly temperatures and strong winds swept across the open fields during Autumn at Town Farm on Saturday, Oct. 17, but the weather didn't deter those who turned out from having a good time.

Scarecrows lined up in one area, ready to be judged. Vendors displayed their wares, children played Frisbee and Wiffle ball, and Rachel Gall and John Stey provided music.

A magician intrigued his audience, while other visitors painted pumpkins or took hayrides. Food was available, and those seeking warmth gathered by the fire pit, where fire department members dispensed ingredients for s'mores.

Fishing was highlighted with Lakeville Journal reporter Patrick Sullivan giving instructions on casting. He laid hula hoops down on the ground at 20-foot intervals and had participants see how far they could cast. He pointed to the bass popper, explaining that he had removed the hook so participants could practice casting safely.

"I've been fly fishing for over 30 years and have caught hundreds of fish," he said. "Ninety percent have been within 40 feet, so you don't have to cast long distances."

Sullivan, who heads to the water whenever he gets a chance, said the beauties of nature and the opportunity to experience reflection and solitude, are what make fishing so enjoyable for him.

Concurrently, Greer Sallick was demonstrating fly tying. He began fishing at age 4. Wanting to learn how to do fly tying, he went to YouTube. He said he uses feathers and hair to simulate insects that fish pursue in the water. "We try to trick them," he explained.

He enjoys fishing for trout and bass, usually following a catch-and-release practice.

He said a community fly tying session is scheduled for Oct. 29 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Center on Main.

The Recreation Commission hosted the event. Commission Chair Catherine Wales and Recreation Director Allycia Soule said the expanded fall festival was intended to introduce more people to the 70 acres that serve as the town's recreation area, where the town pool is the focal point.

Salisbury approves \$611,000 for Lakeville train station move

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Voters approved using up to \$611,000 from the town's debt reduction account to relocate and improve Lakeville's historic train station, settling how to pay for a project approved last month.

The funding resolution passed 32-3 on Oct. 15.

At the Sept. 16 town meeting, voters approved spending up to \$650,000 on the project

but left the funding source to the Board of Finance. That authorization included money for engineering and contingencies beyond the construction contract.

The plan calls for moving the Ethan Allen Street building back 19 feet, raising it and constructing a new foundation and basement. First Selectman Curtis Rand has said the move would protect the station from delivery trucks that have repeatedly struck

its overhanging roof and improve safety along the congested roadway near restaurants and the town Grove. Concrete barriers installed to protect the building have further narrowed the street.

The Board of Finance recommended using the debt reduction account at its Sept. 22 meeting.

Comptroller Joe Cleaveland said the account contains about \$725,000, including money set aside for a Salisbury Central School construction project that has not proceeded.

The finance board also considered the Bauer Fund, established through a bequest from Frederick Bauer in the early 1950s. Overseen by the board, the fund holds about \$3 million and has supported the Town Grove, Bauer Park and Salisbury Family

Services.

The board decided against using that fund while questions remain about the legal language governing its use. Two board members were assigned to review the language with Cleaveland.

During discussion of the funding resolution, resident Victor Germack asked how much restoration would cost after the building is moved.

Rand said the State Historic Preservation Office would pay for an architectural plan and a process to determine the building's future use. The cost of repairs and restoration remains undetermined.

For that work, Rand said, the preservation office "will go 50-50" with the town.

He added that nonprofit organizations interested in using the building also have funds available to help.

Salisbury updates tax relief ordinance for emergency volunteers

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Residents unanimously approved a correction to the town's property tax relief ordinance for eligible emergency volunteers at a town meeting Thursday, Oct. 15.

The ordinance, initially approved 142-1 at a Sept. 16 town meeting, provides a property tax abatement of up to \$2,000 for eligible members of the Lakeville Hose Company and Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service. The revised version passed 35-0.

The correction became necessary after officials discovered that town attorney Tom Marrion had drafted the ordinance using state

legislative guidelines that had not been updated to reflect a change in the law.

The revision changes the formula used to calculate the maximum amount of a volunteer's real or personal property assessment eligible for an exemption. The original language set that amount at \$1 million divided by the town's mill rate; the corrected version uses \$2 million.

At Salisbury's mill rate of 11.0, the revised formula yields a maximum exemption of \$181,818.18 in assessed value, equivalent to \$2,000 in property taxes.

First Selectman Curtis Rand said the correction updates the ordinance's language but makes no practical change to the benefit.

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Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation				
1. Publication title: The Lakeville Journal				
2. Pub. no. 303-280				
3. Filing date: 10/22/26				
4. Issue frequency: weekly				
5. No. of issues annually: 51				
6. Annual subscription price: \$120.00 & \$147.00				
7. Mailing Address: PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039-1688				
8. Mailing Address of Publisher and Editors: James H. Clark, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039-1688; Executive Editor: Christian Murray, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039-1688				
10. Owner (holding 1% or more of total stock): LJMN Media, Inc., PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039-1688				
11. Known bondholders: None				
12. For non-profit organizations: NA				
13. Publication name: The Lakeville Journal				
14. Issue date for circulation data: 9/24/26				
15. Extent and nature of circulation	Av. No. copies each issue during preceding 12 months	No. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date		
a. Total No. Copies (net press run)	2552	2545		
b. Paid Circulation				
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(2) Mailed in-county paid subscriptions (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertisers proof copies, exchange copies)	1097	1066		
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Our Towns

Salisbury voters approve \$113,000 for Holley Place cleanup

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Voters unanimously approved spending up to \$113,000 to help clean up oil-contaminated soil at the Holley Place affordable housing site in Lakeville at a town meeting Thursday, Oct. 15.

The 35-0 vote authorized using money from the Small Cities Repayment Fund for the work. The Board of Selectmen had endorsed the contribution Sept. 22.

The cleanup was previously estimated to cost between \$165,000 and \$175,000, with the developer, the nonprofit Salisbury Housing Committee, responsible for raising the balance. First Selectman Curtis Rand has said the town bears some responsibility because it owns the land.

Construction stopped over the summer after crews excavating the foundation detected the smell of heating oil. Soil removal began in late September.

The three-story development at 11 Holley St. will include 14 affordable rental apartments: 10 one-bedroom and four two-bedroom units.

The committee broke ground in March, with occupancy initially anticipated in spring 2027.

Earlier this month, the committee had not yet said whether the cleanup would affect that schedule.

The town's contribution will come from repayments of home rehabilitation loans issued through a regional Small Cities program.

In an interview Friday, Oct. 16, Comptroller Joe Cleaveland said the fund originated with a \$300,000 state grant awarded in 2012 to serve eight towns: Salisbury, Sharon, North Canaan, Falls Village, Kent, Cornwall, Goshen and Norfolk.

The state grant funded interest-free loans to qualifying homeowners in the eight towns for repairs such as replacing roofs, upgrading heating systems and fixing wells or septic systems.

Homeowners qualified if their household income was no more than 80% of the area median income.

Repayment was deferred until the home was sold, transferred or refinanced, Cleaveland said.

Salisbury administered the program and is allowed to keep the money homeowners repay, provided it is used for affordable housing. Those repayments are the source of the town's contribution to the Holley Place cleanup.

Templeton Farms celebrates 50 years of senior housing in Kent

By Ruth Epstein

KENT — Templeton Farms, a 24-unit senior housing complex on Swifts Lane, celebrated its 50th anniversary Sunday, Oct. 18, bringing together residents, board members, staff and neighbors to mark the milestone.

Attendees gathered at the senior center where former board member Catherine Bachrach gave a history of the complex that has been home to so many.

The audience was surprised to learn that the complex was built at a cost of \$427,000 in 1976. "To build it today you'd have to add some zeroes onto that," called out Kevin Brady, a board member and local contractor.

A grant from the Farmers Home Administration funded construction on land donated by the town. Voters narrowly approved the land transfer at a 1974 town meeting, 97 to 90.

The project stirred controversy, drawing opposition for a variety of reasons. Bachrach drew laughter when she recalled one complaint: The apartments would be too far from the town center, even though the commercial district is within easy walking distance.

There were cries that the complex would not generate any tax revenue, which proved to be not true.

"Ironically, many who opposed the plan wound up living there years later," Bachrach said.

Since it was dedicated in July 1976, there have been between 150 and 175 residents, the vast majority from Kent or those with connections to



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Clytie Kennedy, president of the residents' council at Templeton Farms senior apartments in Kent, speaks Sunday, Oct. 18, during the complex's 50th anniversary celebration.

the town.

Sixty-five to 70 Kent residents have served on the board of directors.

More controversy followed in 1978, when the town rejected a \$100,000 grant under the Older Americans Act to establish a senior center.

Volunteers led by Amos Jennings later converted a barn on the property into a community room. In 1991, the senior center opened in an adjoining section of the barn with funding from a Small Cities Block Grant.

Improvements to apartments have been made over the years, sometimes over the opposition of tenants. One woman was adamant she didn't want her kitchen updated. They waited until all

others had been done and she finally acquiesced.

Bachrach read off a list of many familiar names who had a hand in different aspects of the complex.

Borrowing Martin Luther King's term "a beloved community," Bachrach said Templeton Farms is truly a haven.

Tegan Gawel is the current president and she called it "a treasure in plain sight." She thanked the board and staff for their dedication.

Clytie Kennedy, president

of the Residents' Council, said she didn't know what she would have done if Templeton Farms hadn't been there for her when she retired.

"I love that they're not too strict or regimented. The freedom we have here is wonderful. I love that I can keep my garden."

She said she is grateful to the board that gives so much time and commitment. "I wish more people could come here, but I know there is a long waiting list."

There are currently about 70 on that list. The rents are federally subsidized to keep them low.

Selectman Lynn Worthington said it is important for seniors to have safe living places.

She has strong connections to Templeton Farms, since her husband is a long-serving board member and six years ago her parents became tenants. Her father passed away, but her mother still lives there.

Catherine Cade, who has lived at Templeton Farms for 12 years, said she feels at home there.

"It's not like living in a senior citizens development. It's more like a neighborhood."

Knights of Columbus to donate coats for local children

By Ruth Epstein

NORTH CANAAN — Children in four area towns will receive new winter coats through the Knights of Columbus Berkshire Council 1520's participation in the national "Coats for Kids" campaign.

The council bought 96 coats, ranging in size from infant to 18, for children in North Canaan, Falls Village, Salisbury and Norfolk. The coats will be given to social service agents in each town for distribution to families.

Falls Village First Selectman Dave Barger and North Canaan resident Steve Allyn displayed the brightly colored coats at the Bitterman Center, part of St. Martin of Tours Parish at 2 Daisy Hill



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Falls Village First Selectman Dave Barger, left, and North Canaan resident Steve Allyn display coats at the Bitterman Center. The Knights of Columbus Berkshire Council 1520 is providing 96 coats for distribution through social service agents in four area towns.

Road.

Barger said the local chapter purchased the coats

from the Supreme Knights of Columbus Council of Connecticut.

Salisbury approves 9-month hotel moratorium

By Christian Murray

SALISBURY — The Planning and Zoning Commission has approved a nine-month moratorium on new hotel applications in residential zones, temporarily halting new proposals while the town reviews its zoning regulations.

The moratorium, approved Oct. 5 and scheduled to take effect Nov. 2, follows controversy surrounding plans to redevelop the Wake Robin Inn property on Sharon Road.

The temporary restriction is intended to give the commission time to examine how hotels are regulated in

residential areas and whether changes to existing zoning provisions are necessary.

The commission began considering the moratorium during its Sept. 21 meeting. Jeremy DeCarli, a land-use consultant working with the town, said the nine-month period would give commissioners time to reassess the language governing hotels in residential zones.

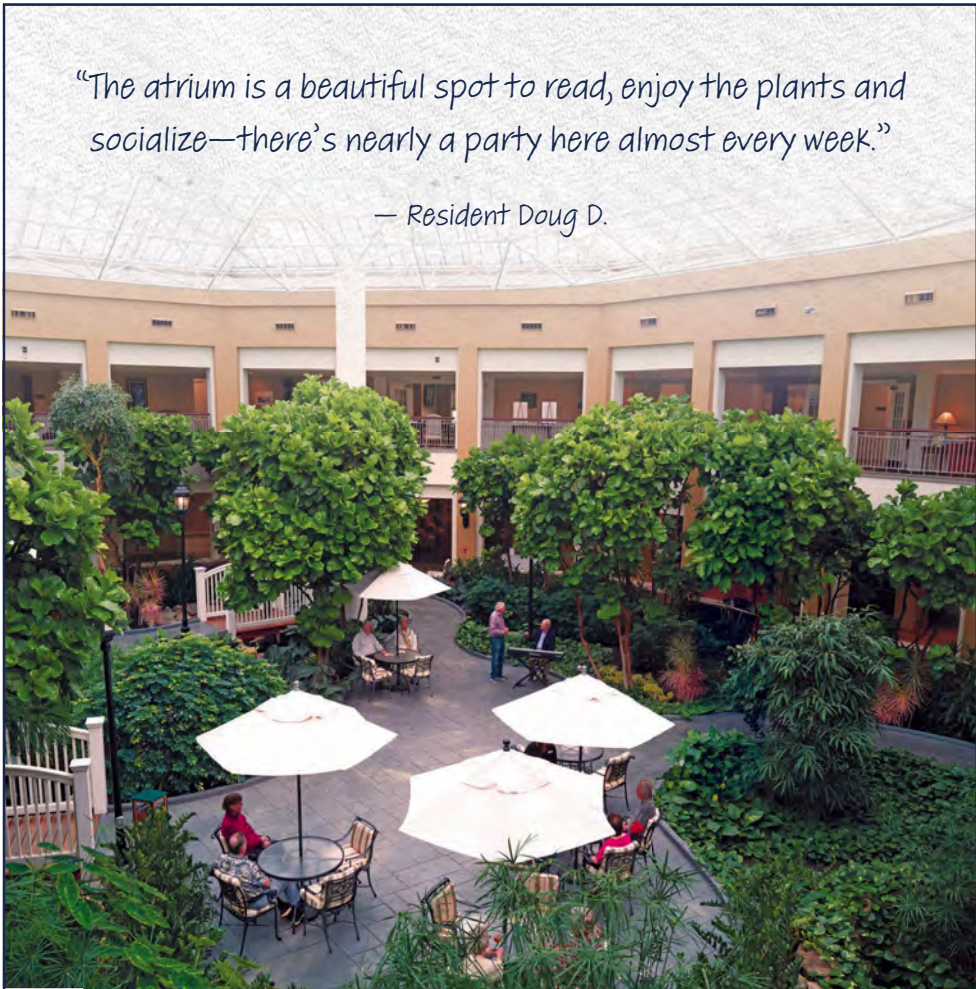
The review centers on a 2024 zoning amendment that allowed hotel development by special permit in the Rural Residential 1 zone, known as RR-1. That change provided the regulatory basis for New York City-based developer Aradev LLC's proposal to

expand the historic Wake Robin Inn in Lakeville.

The redevelopment calls for additional guest rooms, a restaurant, event space and other amenities. The proposal drew opposition from neighbors concerned about the scale of development and its potential impact on the surrounding residential area.

The newly approved moratorium will not affect the Wake Robin project, which already holds a valid development approval. The moratorium includes an exemption for existing hotel approvals that remain valid.

As of the commission's September discussion, no hotel applications were pending.



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— Resident Doug D.

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Run & Wag

Continued from Page A1



PHOTO BY TOM BROWN
Brittany Telke and her dog, Mazikeen, won the runner-and-dog category at the Little Guild's Run & Wag 5K.

Participants could compete with or without dogs. The gathering also featured live music by Relatively Sound, taco and pizza trucks, and a raffle with donated gift bags valued at as much as \$400. Executive Director Jenny Langendoerfer said Run & Wag is one of the Little Guild's two signature fundraising events, alongside the Great Country Mutt Show. The race raises more than \$20,000 from participants and sponsors to help the Little Guild rescue dogs and cats and find them homes. Human participation was slightly higher than last year's 233, while the number of

dogs fell from 84 to 68. This year's race followed the May opening of the Little Guild's new 8,000-square-foot shelter in West Cornwall. The building replaced a converted house and includes dedicated spaces for adoption, animal socialization, quarantine and community programs. Beyond sheltering homeless animals, the Little Guild supports area pet owners through food assistance, vaccination clinics and help with veterinary care. Its partnership with Project SAGE provides care for pets of people experiencing domestic violence.

Zoning

Continued from Page A1

hearing on the gymnasium's special permit application at the beginning of the meeting. Audience members were reminded that their comments were to address the proposed zoning amendment rather than the specific project. Connor nevertheless outlined the proposed renovation and rehabilitation. The first-floor assembly space would accommodate wellness classes, yoga, educational seminars, nonprofit and private events and occasional celebrations. A kitchen would also be installed. "The proposed project is intended to create a community gathering place that provides flexible space for educational, recreational, cultural and social activities, while preserving and repurposing the existing structure," Connor said.

He said the facility would contribute to the town's economic development while providing additional housing for people who work in town. Before opening public comment, commission chair Anna Timell said the commission must consider the town's Plan of Conservation and Development when reviewing zoning text amendments. The plan's goals include expanding affordable housing and supporting local business opportunities. Resident Kathi Ramos expressed concern that the proposed zoning change could allow private events at the gymnasium that would generate substantial traffic. "Do we really want a bar in the village?" she asked. "The worst of my nightmares would be weddings and big parties with noise, smells and parking." Her husband, Charles Ramos, said he was a retired judge who had dealt with hundreds of real estate cases and understood the potential consequences of zoning changes. As a neighbor of the gymnasium, he said he



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN
The former Rumsey Hall gymnasium at 12 Bolton Hill Road awaits possible mixed-use redevelopment.

had received no notice of the proposal. Nick Bruehl said the village has historically been zoned residential and that the change would affect the neighborhood for decades. He also raised concerns about traffic safety. Jane Barnett, a resident, said, "The village will be forever changed with the addition of commercial uses. It will erode the character of the area."

Proposed data center ban draws debate
The commission also heard comments on a proposed zoning amendment that would prohibit data centers and large-scale battery storage facilities throughout Cornwall. Data centers house computer equipment used to store and process digital information, while battery storage facilities store electricity for later use. Janell Mullen, the commission's consultant, explained that she had heard about bans or moratoriums in other towns she works with and brought the issue to Cornwall's commissioners, who appeared to favor the idea. In a letter read aloud at the meeting, resident Roxanna Robinson supported a ban, citing the large amounts of water and electricity used by data centers. "Banning is an important

'No Kings'

Continued from Page A1

not yet voted; and easing pressure on election workers. Michael Harris of California and Sheffield said he believes Trump has no respect for the law. "I'm ex-military and we have a guy who got out of it because of bone spurs running the military," he said, shaking his head. Harris also criticized what he described as incompetence among Trump's appointees, pointing to former White House press secretary Katie Zacharia, whose tenure lasted less than a week. Jane Winfrey of Amenia said, "Trump gets to me mainly because of the vile corruption." Her friend Maxine Paetro, also of Amenia, put it more simply: "Get him out of here." Mark Alexander of Falls Village offered his own assessment. "If we do our job on Election Day, we won't have to do this again." Joanne Hayhurst, another Salisbury organizer, said she is focused on Senate races in Texas, Georgia and Maine. "As for Maine's Susan Collins, I'm tired of hoping she'll do the right thing," Hayhurst said.

In Kent, about 50 to 60 demonstrators lined Main Street, carrying signs that included "Congress Do Something" and "Donald You're Fired." A similar number gathered at Cornwall Bridge Green, the triangle between Routes 4 and 7. Signs there included "Honk



PHOTOS BY MADI LONG
Demonstrators carry signs in Salisbury on Saturday, Oct. 17, voicing opposition to President Donald Trump and his administration.

for Democracy." Connecticut's early voting period runs from Monday, Oct. 19, through Sunday, Nov. 1, including weekends. Voting hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., except Tuesday, Oct. 27, and Thursday, Oct. 29, when hours are extended to 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Northwell

Continued from Page A1



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MURRAY
The lot at 61 Railroad St. in North Canaan is the proposed site of a Northwell Health physical therapy office.

"The original design was going to get really close to [the wetlands] and that's the problem," said Zoning Enforcement Officer George Martin. Both the commission and the Board of Selectmen have agreed to allow the facility to use the municipal parking lot. Northwell requested at least 20 reserved spaces in the lot. In correspondence with the commission, how-

ever, Town Attorney Randall DiBella said the available municipal parking within 300 feet of the building satisfied the facility's parking requirements. DiBella also cautioned that reserving spaces could set a precedent for other businesses seeking designated parking in the same lot. Nearby businesses include Ilse Coffee and Old Canaan Market, an antique store.

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Brothers Paul and John Stefanopoulos at the Four Brothers Drive-In in Amenia, NY

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PHOTO BY MADI LONG

Stephanie Saetta runs Charlie Chicken Bones, a sanctuary in Salisbury.

A sanctuary for second chances

By Madi Long

Stephanie Saetta has spent much of her life caring for others. A physician at White Plains Hospital, she has another calling at home in Salisbury — one that has four legs and a wagging tail. She runs Charlie Chicken Bone Sanctuary, a nonprofit dog rescue that brings dogs from overcrowded pounds and the streets of Texas to foster homes in northwestern Connecticut, where they can begin again.

The sanctuary is named for Charlie, the dog who taught her how special a bond between a person and rescue animal can be.

Dogs have been at the center of Saetta's life since childhood. She remembers going to the library to research different breeds and trying to convince her parents the family needed a dog. She had her heart set on an Irish Wolfhound, but she was more than happy when her mom brought home a West Highland terrier.

After college, she adopted Charlie as a puppy from a rescue on Long Island. He was a hound-shepherd-Rottweiler

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

BUSINESS

The Pink House AM is serving up community

By D.H. Callahan

It all started with a yoga class. Mare Rubin was working on her second act after leaving the Upper West Side, where she'd raised a family and worked in corporate marketing. Newly empty nesters, she and her husband decided to move to the wilds of northwestern Connecticut, where they had spent 15 years as weekenders, to see what life in the woods had in store for them.

Rubin started teaching yoga classes at the Union in West Cornwall, a space designated by the town of Cornwall as a community hub with couches, Wi-Fi, occasional events and a growing yoga class schedule. She was adjusting well but missed one important thing about city life: a casual coffee shop.

She decided to talk to David Ellen, principal owner of the Pink House, West Cornwall's trendy eatery, which was hitting its stride with a new paint job and some rave reviews. Serving dinner only Thursday through Monday and brunch on weekends, the stylish restaurant sat empty much of the time. The idea was simple. Rubin would use

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

EDUCATION

Cornwall Historical Society celebrates Connecticut's Black patriots

By D.H. Callahan

On Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Cornwall Historical Society, author and genealogist John Mills will breathe new life into the stories of some of Connecticut's more underappreciated patriots. The reason these heroes were forgotten? They were Black.

At a time when white colonists were fighting for their own liberty and political independence, many Black men who fought alongside them remained enslaved. Some risked their lives only to return to bondage. Though enslaved people were promised freedom from both sides of the Revolutionary War in exchange for their service, Great Britain, too, was still deeply dependent on slavery. For Black people in America, the war presented both extraordinary risks and uncertain paths to the freedom that white colonists were demanding for themselves.

One systemic consequence of slavery is the loss and obscuring of the histories of those who were enslaved. Records were often not kept about where Africans had been stolen from or who they were related to. Families were torn apart, leaving nothing but the faintest traces of the past. The delineation point, where genealogists can no longer trace histories back, is referred to this as the "document wall."

Today, 250 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence and more than 160 years since the Emancipation Proclamation, there is a growing effort to restore some of the



PHOTO COURTESY THE ALEX BREANNE CORPORATION

John Mills at the birthplace of Connecticut abolitionist John Brown.

history stripped from enslaved people and their descendants. Among the leaders of these efforts is Mills, president of the Alex Breanne Corporation, a nonprofit organization that works to identify previously anonymous Black Americans from history and connect them with their living relatives.

The work began with Mills' sister, who started digging into their family's past in the 1990's and introduced him to this emerging world of genealogy. Through that process, the Mills family discovered their great-great-grandfather, Ned Mills, who had been enslaved in Texas. His last name came

from his final enslaver and remains the family surname. Through their research, they found that the document wall directly affected their ancestor, who learned of his liberation on June 19, 1865, now commemorated as Juneteenth.

"For the first time," Mills writes on his website, "American slavery wasn't something that had happened to anonymous people in a history book. It had happened to my family."

The discovery gave Mills a familial pride he had been missing for years. That pride fueled his desire to help others find their own history. In 2023, Mills received his certificate in

genealogical research from Boston University. He has used his expertise to help descendants of enslaved people uncover histories they never dreamed of learning.

To do this, he uses a process called "reverse genealogy," identifying a person from the past and working forward to discover their descendants. Along the way, Mills has found some remarkable people who fought for freedom on American soil, some of whom were never freed.

At the Cornwall Historical Society event, Mills will present the stories of four Connecticut

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

COMMUNITY

Big ideas come to Lenox for inaugural field festival

By Natalia Zukerman

What do joy, gardening, artificial intelligence, the American experiment and the creative process have in common? Quite a lot, as it turns out, at least when some of the world's most compelling thinkers get together to talk about them.

From Friday, Oct. 23, through Sunday, Oct. 25, Lenox, Massachusetts, will host the inaugural field festival, a three-day gathering of writers, artists, scholars and cultural figures at Shakespeare & Company. Billed as a festival of ideas, entertainment, learning and discovery, field brings together an impressive roster of voices to explore everything from the deeply personal to the profoundly political.

The premise is both simple and increasingly radical: Bring people together, encourage curiosity and make room for thoughtful disagreement. The festival's guiding principles are to respect other voices, hear opposing perspectives and remain engaged in conversation, even when the subject matter becomes uncomfortable.

Opening the festival Friday evening is celebrated artist and

author Maira Kalman, whose whimsical illustrations and paintings have appeared on numerous New Yorker covers. Kalman will discuss her new collection, "Joy," which explores the small, often overlooked mo-

ments of beauty that persist even during difficult times.

Saturday's programming moves across disciplines and generations. Pioneering psychologist Carol Gilligan, whose groundbreaking 1982 book "In

a Different Voice" transformed conversations about gender and moral development, will join psychologist Niobe Way to discuss care, connection and the emo-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

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CALENDAR

A list of upcoming events



... Stephanie Saetta

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

mix who suffered from intense seizures. Some veterinarians recommended euthanasia, but Saetta wasn't ready to give up on him.

When Charlie would have an episode, she would sit with him, nose to nose, talking him through it. She learned to look for the moment he began to come around — when he could smell her again and his tail started to wag.

“You only get one or two of these soul connection dogs, so I do this in his honor,” Saetta said. “I like to think that all the dogs that come through are going to have that person that they connect with just the same.”

Through a network of women working to rescue animals in Texas, she learned about the desperate situations facing many dogs.

With limited space, some public pounds euthanize even healthy animals to make room. Limited access to veterinary care leaves sick dogs or unvaccinated puppies especially vulnerable.

Saetta saw that reality firsthand with a puppy named Gus, a Labrador mix she fostered who has since been adopted. Gus and his sisters had been dumped beside a road, where they were living under an abandoned car. People would leave food for them, but no one would take them to the pound.

“Even the people who rescue animals down there were like, ‘sadly, the best place for them



PHOTO BY MADI LONG

Stephanie Saetta, with her rescue dog George and Blue (left), a shepherd mix awaiting his forever home.

“You only get one or two of these soul connection dogs, so I do this in his honor:

STEPHANIE SAETTA

to be is on the side of the road,” she said. “That’s safer. Someone might actually help them that way.”

Saetta knows that there are far more dogs than any one person can save, but she also knows that helping one dog means one fewer on the street.

Charlie Chicken Bone Sanctuary operates entirely through foster homes, a model that Saetta believes is best for the dogs

and the humans hoping to adopt them.

Rather than moving directly from a difficult environment into a permanent home, the dogs have a chance to settle into a quieter setting. They can learn what it’s like to live with a family, sleep somewhere comfortable and receive affection without fighting for attention. Fostering also allows the rescue to really get to know each dog.

“As fosters, we’re honest,” said Saetta. We’ll tell you everything that’s been bad, everything that’s been good. What their temperament is and how they’ve responded to all the things they’ve experienced.”

A successful adoption is not just about finding a dog a home;

it’s about finding the right home where the dog and family can thrive together.

Saetta is looking for more people willing to open their homes to foster dogs. She understands that the thought of growing attached and eventually saying goodbye can feel daunting. But she sees that goodbye a little differently.

Fostering means being part of a dog’s journey, even if only for a short time. It gives dogs a safe place to rest, the chance to trust again and the love they have gone without for much of their lives. And when the time comes for them to leave, it is not really a loss. It is the reward of knowing they are moving on to a forever home.

Blue, Saetta’s current foster, is hoping to find his perfect home.

Now around 7 years old, Blue spent most of his life wandering the streets of Texas. People sometimes left food out for him, but his mangy, dirty coat kept them from stopping to pet him. Today, he has a chance to experience something different.

Blue is still waiting for his forever home. Saetta believes he would do best as the only dog in a household or alongside another senior dog. He will need someone willing to continue working with him on his training and understand that a dog with his history needs patience.

But what he gives in return is a whole lot of love.

“He’s so enthusiastic, he’s so excited for life, he’s so friendly, and he’s got such a good heart, and he loves to cuddle,” Saetta said. “He’s a good, good, good dog.”

For more information on adopting Blue or how to foster, visit ccbsanctuary.org.

... field festival

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



PHOTO PROVIDED

Hunter Runnette, founder and board chair of field, has spent years fostering arts and cultural programming in the Berkshires.

tional lives of young people.

Historian Annette Gordon-Reed will sit down with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Brent Staples to examine the contradictions between America’s founding ideals and its history of slavery and racial inequality, a particularly resonant subject as the nation marks its 250th anniversary.

In another conversation, acclaimed writers Jamaica Kincaid and Saidiya Hartman will explore gardening as a practice that connects memory, history, beauty and belonging. Moderated by scholar Farah Jasmine Griffin, the discussion promises to reveal how something as seemingly ordinary as tending a garden can become an act of cultural and personal discovery.

The creative process will take center stage when novelist Colm Tóibín joins former New York magazine editor Adam Moss for a live conversation inspired by Moss’ book “The Work of Art: How Something Comes from Nothing.” Together, they’ll examine how artists turn an initial idea into a finished work, including the uncertainty, revision and occasional loss of faith along the way.

The weekend also ventures into medicine and technology, with bioethicists and health care leaders discussing the intersection of artificial intelligence, scientific innovation and equitable care. Other sessions explore grief, spirituality and the ways people make meaning of loss.

On Sunday, British painter and printmaker Tom Hammick will offer an illustrated look at his creative practice, incorporating music, poetry and images of his work to explore art’s capacity to express love, loss and the experience of being alive.

The full festival schedule also includes Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Kai Bird and Susan Goldmark discussing their new book about Roy Cohn; political analyst Jonathan Alter examining the midterm elections; and trauma researcher Bessel van der Kolk discussing psychedelic-assisted treatment with psychiatrist Ronald D. Siegel.

Field takes place Oct. 23–25 at Shakespeare & Company in Lenox. Weekend passes and individual event tickets are available at fieldlenox.org.

... Black Patriots

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

families: Job Lathrop of Norwich, the son of Pirmus Armes, about whom Mills has published a book; Prince Mortimer of Middletown, also the subject of a book by Mills; the three sons of London Wallace of Simsbury; and Robert “Robin” Starr of Danbury, who later lived in Cornwall and Sharon.

A few years ago, Cornwall Consolidated School social studies teacher Will Vincent reached out to Mills for research guidance on a local history project his students were undertaking. Together, they learned about Naomi Freeman of Cornwall. After purchasing an acre of land on Great Hollow Road in 1828, Naomi Freeman became the first Black female landowner in Cornwall.

The students petitioned the town to rename a road after the historic Cornwall resident. In April 2025, Great Hollow Road was officially renamed Naomi Freeman Historic Road. U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes joined Mills and the Cornwall Consolidated School students for a presentation of their research.



PHOTO COURTESY THE ALEX BREANNE CORPORATION

John Mills speaking at Quinnipiac University.

Since then, Mills has guided the students in their quest to learn more about Starr’s story. Starr was a Revolutionary War soldier who joined the Continental Army to earn enough money to buy his own freedom, receiving the Badge of Merit in the process. The stories of his descendants’ services are equally worthy of their

own books.

In recognition of Mills and the students’ work, First Selectman Gordon Ridgway proclaimed Feb. 8 as Robin Starr Day.

Preregistration is required for the event at the Cornwall Historical Society. To learn more about Mills’ work, visit alexbreanne.org.

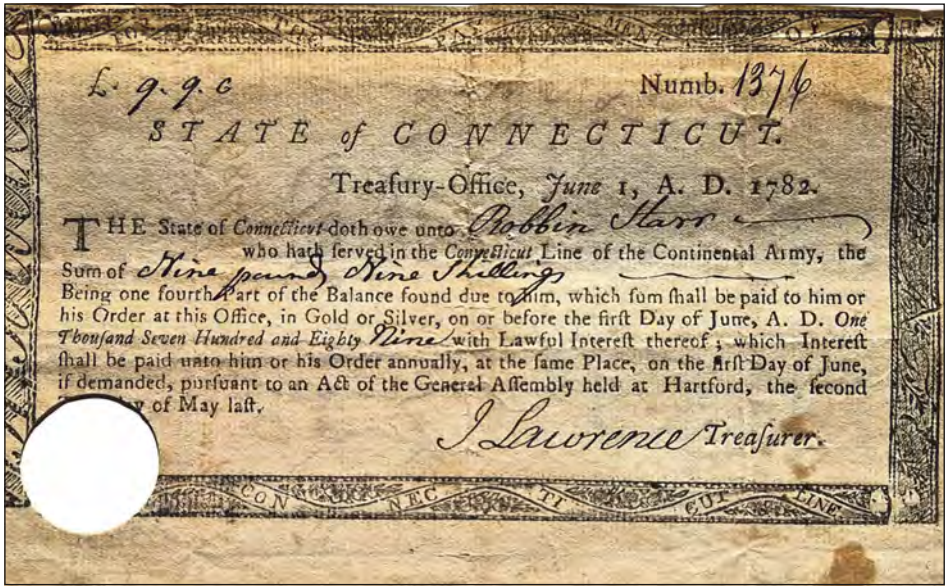


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Pay Bill for Robin Starr’s service in the Continental Army.



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... Pink House AM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

the space to serve coffee and, with a little luck, find somebody who could bake.

Rubin turned to her yoga community to ask if somebody was interested in joining this crazy, if not entirely illogical, idea. That's when Maggie Levine chimed in. After 25 years as a teacher in Brooklyn Heights, Levine was also looking for life's next challenge. Though some time had passed since her days working in the pastry world, including a stint in a Wolfgang Puck kitchen, she'd never lost her love for baking. Just like that, a team was born.

Ellen had been interested in making better use of the space for some time and was patient enough with the cafe newcomers to let Rubin take some time to become a barista. Not many people take to the espresso machine for the first time in their 50s, but Rubin was determined to do it right. She knew a good cafe requires a skilled barista, so she spent days driving to No. 6 Roastery in West Stockbridge. There, she learned about the intricacies of the beans, how best to brew them and even took a couple of lessons in latte art, all while giving Levine the chance to refine her baking skills. By the time they opened those morning doors, their tools were sharp and the frittata recipe was perfect.



Mare Rubin and Maggie Levine of the Pink House AM.

PHOTO BY MADI LONG

Though Rubin and Levine might disagree on how crisp they like their toast, the biggest challenges have been practical. The Pink House AM is part of the Pink House business, but the dinner and brunch restaurant has priority for the kitchen and coffee space. That means setting up and breaking down the entire cafe operation every day. Much of the team's goal is to provide a space for community. It's not uncommon to find groups of longtime locals who meet morning

after morning to chew the fat and enjoy coffee and pastries. A few enthusiastic customers have become such regular fixtures that they've had drinks named after them, including a flat white named after West Cornwall-based photographer Martin Chalk. The team is also hosting Cedric Gairard of local arts publication Fieldwork to play vinyl records outdoors on Thursdays or Fridays, depending on the weather. For now, full service is available Monday through

Friday until noon, and coffee is available before the Pink House brunch service starts at 11 a.m. on weekends. Though not ready to disclose their future plans, the team has additional offerings in the works. For now, the space is open and ready for the casual laptop user, groups of old friends or even a curious couple to sit, enjoy their coffee and read a copy of The Lakeville Journal. Follow the Pink House AM on Instagram at @pinkhouse.am.

MUSIC

Sons of Astro are musicians, friends and bandmates — in that order

By D.H. Callahan

No matter where they are in the world, musicians seem to find other musicians. There's a shared language, a shared experience of being on stage and performing, and a shared enthusiasm for making those melodies by themselves or together. Such is the case with Norfolk and Brooklyn-based cosmic Americana band Sons of Astro.

That magnetic musicians' bond drew Brooklyn-based singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Mike Cobb into the orbit of singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Matt Statler. The two neighbors took to each other right away and were soon playing open mics together. As an ethics professor at NYU's Stern School of Business, Statler made the case that if he sat in for Cobb's set and Cobb sat in for Statler's, they could play together and double their stage time. Clearly, these men wanted to make as much music as possible. That became a little harder when Cobb and his family moved up to Norfolk, Connecticut. All the while, Cobb had also been talking to architect, musician and amateur luthier Ben Herzog. Herzog spent his pandemic downtime teaching himself to build guitar- and bass-like instruments for fun. He also hosted a bluegrass jam session at his architecture office in Brooklyn. Cobb mentioned he had moved to a small town in Connecticut. It turned out, Herzog had a place in Norfolk, too. Things were starting to



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Sons of Astro will be at the Common Pub in Housatonic on Oct. 24 and the 2nd Home Lounge in Winsted on Nov. 14.

come together, but what would really solidify them as a band was a drummer. Cobb called Brooklyn-based drummer Charlie Shaw, who has a collapsible drum kit that he can fold down to suitcase size. For that special X factor, they brought in Rip Westmoorland from Herzog's jam sessions. Westmoorland has an enviable instrument collection featuring several vintage guitars he was happy to lend to the group, which was now officially a band. The name Sons of Astro comes from a chance encounter with a couple of cloned dogs, but their music is far from a cold scientific copy. In fact, in a time when AI threatens all forms of art, their music feels remarkably human, and uniquely familiar. Their debut EP, "Another Day Above the Dirt," hits Bandcamp and other streaming services Nov. 6. It pulls from influences like

the Grateful Dead, Tom Petty and the Byrds, and features timely lyrical themes and hooks you'll want to sing along to.

You can catch Sons of Astro at the Common Pub in Housatonic on Oct. 24 and at the 2nd Home Lounge in Winsted on Nov. 14.

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ART

One more weekend to get inside the art at ArtEast

By Natalia Zukerman

ArtEast's annual October Open Studio Tour is already underway, but there's still one more weekend to step inside the creative worlds of artists working throughout eastern Dutchess County. On Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 24 and 25, artists will once again open their studio doors, inviting visitors to see where the work happens, meet the people who make it and perhaps discover something worth taking home.

Now in its 21st year, the ArtEast October Open Studio Tour offers a self-guided journey with participating studios in Holmes, LaGrangeville, Hopewell Junction, Pawling, Patterson, Poughquag and Wingdale. Visitors can explore painting, photography, sculpture, mixed media and other artistic practices, and get some leaf-peeping in at the same time.

Unlike a traditional gallery exhibition, the tour offers a chance to see art in the places where it comes to life. There are works in progress, tools of the trade and opportunities

to ask artists about their inspirations, techniques and creative processes. It's an invitation into spaces that are generally private, and a reminder of just how much artistic activity is happening in our own backyard. Among the participating artists are sculptors Bob and Karen Madden, painter Sharon Nakazato, photographer Lonna Kelly, sculptor Brian Wohrman and mixed-media artist Doreen O'Connor. Their work represents just a portion of the creative talent spread across the region, with studios ranging from intimate home workspaces to larger environments dedicated to making art. Founded in 2006 to raise awareness of artists working in eastern Dutchess County, ArtEast has grown into a regional arts organization that fosters connections. In addition to its October tour, the organization has expanded its programming to include spring open studios and other opportunities for artists and the public to connect.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

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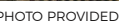
Author Tarajia Morrell in her kitchen.

An appetite for life: Tarajia Morrell's “Desire Feeds the Feast”

Her family founded fine

For tickets to the book talk on Oct. 24, visit troutbeck.com.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3



The participating artists in this year's ArtEast open studios.

map before setting out, as some participating artists were open only during the first weekend, Oct. 17 and 18. For a complete list of artists, studio locations and tour information, visit arteastdutchess.com.



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PHOTO BOBBY GRAHAM

Pheasant casserole, a South Dakota tradition, passed down through generations and made for sharing.

Bobby’s Pheasant Casserole

Growing up in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, October meant one thing: pheasant hunting season. For generations, it’s been a cherished tradition bringing family and friends together, both in the fields and around the dinner table.

Our family’s annual pheasant hunt has continued for 43 years, spanning three generations. It’s a tradition filled with crisp autumn mornings, great stories and memories that last a lifetime. And although I’ve traded the South Dakota prairies for the hills of northwest Connecticut, my love of pheasant season has followed me home.

Each year, after the big hunt, Matt and I gather friends around our table to enjoy this special treat. For many, it’s their first taste of pheasant, and even Matt, who didn’t grow up with the tradition, has come to love it.

Of course, the evening is about more than what’s on the plate. It’s about setting a beautiful table, lighting the candles, opening a good bottle of wine and making everyone feel welcome. To us, that’s the true gift of hospitality: sharing something you love with the people you love.

And no pheasant season would be complete without our family’s favorite pheasant casserole. It’s the very dish Matt and I serve each year after the big hunt, a recipe passed down through generations and still marked “our family favorite!” in our original cookbook.

It’s comforting, delicious and perfect for a table full of friends. Best of all, it can be prepared ahead of time, leaving more time for what matters most: enjoying the company around your table.

Bobby’s Pheasant Casserole Serves 6

- Ingredients**
- 12 ounces mild pork sausage
 - ½ cup fresh mushrooms, sliced
 - 8 ounces water chestnuts, chopped
 - 1 large onion, finely chopped
 - 1 (6-ounce) box wild rice mix
 - ¼ cup all-purpose flour
 - ¼ cup butter

What’s cooking...

Bobby Graham & Matthew Marden

- ½ cup milk
- 1¾ cups chicken broth
- Juice of ½ lemon
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon Tony Chachere’s Original Cajun Seasoning
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- 2 cups cooked, boned pheasant (or turkey or chicken)
- ½ cup slivered, toasted almonds

Preparation
Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

In a large skillet, sauté the pork sausage until browned. Drain well, reserving a little of the drippings.

Sauté the onion and mushrooms in the reserved drippings until softened. Add the chopped water chestnuts toward the end of cooking. Squeeze the lemon juice over the mixture.

Prepare the wild rice according to package directions.

In a separate saucepan, melt the butter over medium heat. Whisk in the flour and gradually add the milk and chicken broth, stirring until smooth and thickened. Season with salt and pepper.

In a large casserole dish, gently combine the cooked pheasant, sausage, wild rice and mushroom mixture. Pour the cream sauce over everything and toss gently to combine.

Bake for approximately 1 hour, until heated through and bubbling. Sprinkle with toasted almonds just before serving.

NOTE: This is a wonderful dish for entertaining because it can be made ahead. As our original family recipe reminds us, the flavors only get better as the casserole rests. If holding it warm before serving, keep it at 140 degrees or above.

Each month, Bobby Graham and Matthew Marden, owners of Dugazon in Sharon, share a recipe inspired by traditions, stories and a sense of welcome.

BUSINESS

Berkshire Mountain Distillers is bringing brewery vibes to Sheffield

By D.H. Callahan

Almost 20 years after Chris Weld first opened Berkshire Mountain Distillers in Sheffield, Massachusetts, he’s expanding his offerings yet again. This time, he’s bringing the beer.

When Weld opened his distillery in April 2007, it was a bit of a risk. Nobody had distilled spirits in the area since Prohibition. Fancy cocktail culture was just emerging in major cities and alternative urban centers. The craft distilling market had not yet matured to its eventual level of popularity.

Nonetheless, the distillery was impressing casual tasters and critics right away. Its fresh granite spring water helped ensure ideal distilling conditions for its bourbon, vodka, gin and rum lines. The distillery won all sorts of awards, and their Greylock Gin was named one of the best craft gins in the country by the New York Times just five years into its run.

Making an exceptional spirit is one thing. Getting the average customer to try it is quite another. Weld estimates that maybe 50 craft distillers operated in the United States when he opened his doors. Today, following a dramatic post-pandemic spike in 2023, the American Craft Spirits Association estimates there are just over 2,000 craft distilleries in the country. That’s a lot of competition.

Berkshire Mountain Distillers (BMD) has done a lot to distinguish itself in an increasingly crowded market. It has released limited runs, like its Smoke and Peat series, in which whiskey and rum are aged a



PHOTO COURTESY MIKE COBB

Mike Cobb and the Crevulators at Berkshire Mountain Distillery

second time in used barrels from Scotland. Its Cultural Cocktails program saw BMD team up with local arts institutions like the Clark Art Institute,, Berkshire Botanical Garden and the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center to create custom cocktail recipes inspired by the venues.

In 2021, BMD introduced the Craft Brewers Whiskey Project, partnering with regional breweries to distill their beers into whiskeys. The project has seen BMD collaborate with a dozen breweries, including Sam Adams, Two Roads in Stratford, Connecticut, and Big Elm, just down the street from the distillery in Sheffield. That first year, Smoke & Dagger Whiskey, BMD’s collaboration with Massachusetts-based Jack’s Abby Craft Lagers, won a gold medal in the beer-distilled whiskey category at the U.S. Open Whiskey and Spirits National Championship.

Unfortunately, their friends at Big Elm closed down their brewery and beer hall earlier this year, leaving a hole in Sheffield’s

social scene. Weld decided to pick up the slack by making the distillery experience more like that of a neighborhood brewery. He brought in games, created a seasonal food menu, added seating to the tasting room and started booking musicians to play free shows on Saturday afternoons. There was only one thing missing: the beer.

After mastering the crafts of distilling and cannabis cultivation — Weld is also co-founder of local cannabis dispensary, The Pass — odds were good that he’d brew a pretty choice beer. But as is frequently the case when navigating regulations surrounding alcohol and cannabis, the seemingly endless and sometimes illogical red tape proved difficult to overcome in the short time Weld had before summer. So he tapped back into his partnerships, asking some of his brewery collaborators to help with his first beer releases.

So far, working with partner breweries, BMD has created three beers: an IPA, a hazy pale ale and a lager, with a hefty brown ale on the way. Many early consumer reviews rank their available varieties above four out of five stars on the beer-rating website Untappd. Until now, the beers have been available only at the distillery, but bottles will soon be available to take home.

Weld is thrilled to send customers home with bottles of his spirits and his beers, but this time, the main goal seems less about setting a brand apart from the competition and more to creating a space for locals, weekenders and, yes, even leaf peepers to gather, enjoy Sheffield and its people, and sample the fruits of Weld’s many labors.

To learn more about Two Lanterns Brewery and Berkshire Mountain Distillers, visit berkshiremountainindistillers.com.

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PHOTO PROVIDED

Dee Salomon, “The Ungardener”

What if the best thing you could do for your garden this fall was a little less? On Sunday, Oct. 25, habitat advocate Dee Salomon, president of the Homegrown National Park board and “Ungardener” columnist for The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News, will explore how leaving leaves, removing invasive plants and encouraging native species can help restore biodiversity and provide essential habitat for birds and wildlife. Presented by the Salisbury Association Land Trust at Scoville Memorial Library in Salisbury, the talk will offer practical tips for gardens and woodlands of all sizes. 4:30 to 6 p.m. Registration required; waitlist available at scovillelibrary.org

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Tri-Corner Calendar

OCTOBER 22

Meet Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation
Norfolk Library, 9 Greenwood’s Road East, Norfolk, Conn.
The Norfolk Economic Development Commission hosts a conversation with Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation President Kara Mikulich, Vice President of Programs Maeve O’Dea and Community Engagement Officer Aileen Meehan. Learn about the foundation’s grant opportunities, funding process and support for local nonprofits, and share your organization’s needs and perspectives. 5 to 6 p.m. RSVP at norfolklibrary.org

OCTOBER 23

Race Brook Lodge Tag Sale
Race Brook Lodge, 864 S. Undermountain Road, Sheffield, Mass.
Oct. 23 to 25
As Race Brook Lodge closes a chapter, furnishings and treasures collected over more than 30 years are up for grabs, including furniture, rugs, lighting, dishes, decorative objects and restaurant equipment. The weekend also features live music, food, drinks and dancing. Friday, 4 to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 3 p.m. Free admission. rbldodge.com/tagsale

“Patterns of Life” Exhibition Opening
Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y.
The Millbrook Arts Project presents “Patterns of Life,” featuring work by Shari Diamond, Richard Garrison, Paul Lewandowski and Jim Morris, curated by Sharon Bates. An artist conversation takes place from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., followed by an opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Free. Exhibition runs through Nov. 28. millbrooklibrary.org

Wassaic Commons Farmers Market and Moonlit Market
3 Main St., Wassaic, N.Y.
Featuring locally grown produce, vendors, artisans, psychics, halloween activities and more, Wassaic’s main street will be filled with farmer’s market each day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with moonlit market on Oct. 24 from 4 to 8 p.m. Vendors welcome. Contact hello@wassaiccommons.com

Kids’ Sewing and Embroidery Course
Common Place Craft Workshop, 50 Main St., Millerton, N.Y.
Oct. 23 through Nov. 20
This five-week course introduces ages 7 to 13 to hand-sewing, mending and embroidery through simple projects including a coin purse and pillowcase. No experience necessary; adults are also welcome to enroll. Fridays, 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. Register at commonplacecraft.square.site

Eric Forstmann at the Mayflower Inn
Mayflower Inn, 118 Woodbury Road, Washington, Conn.
Oct. 23 to 25
Eckert Fine Art presents paintings by Connecticut realist Eric Forstmann, known for his detailed still lifes and landscapes. Meet the artist and view his work daily from

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Forstmann will sign copies of his latest book, “American Realist Artist,” during a cocktail reception Friday, Oct. 23, from 4 to 6 p.m.

2026 Haunted Barn and Monster’s Ball
Wassaic Project, Wassaic, N.Y.
Oct. 23 to 25
The Wassaic Project’s annual Haunted Mill moves to the Luther Barn, with immersive installations, performances, a shadow puppet show, a haunted petting zoo, an alien robot workshop and more. The Monster’s Ball, with a costume contest and live music, takes place Saturday at 7 p.m. at The Lantern’s garden. Tickets and info at wassaicproject.org

The Art of Fine Art Restoration: Causes & Remedies
Saint James Place, 352 Main St., Great Barrington, Mass.
Master Conservator Troy J. Amuso presents an evening exploring the hidden threats to oil paintings, including humidity, light exposure, improper cleaning and neglect. 7 p.m. Tickets proceeds benefit The People’s Pantry and Saint James Place. Register at saintjamesplace.net.

“Julie & Julia” Screening and Q&A
The Moviehouse, 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y.
Nora Ephron’s beloved film starring Meryl Streep and Amy Adams. A post-screening Q&A features former Food & Wine editor-in-chief Dana Cowin in conversation with cookbook author Jessie Sheehan and chef Kristen Essig of Stonewood Farm. 7 p.m. Tickets at themoviehouse.org.

Billy Copley: “Bags, Maps, and Ledgers”
Room for Art, 5979 Route 82, Stanfordsville, N.Y.
Room for Art presents an exhibition of collages and works on paper by Billy Copley, transforming everyday objects — shopping bags, maps and vintage ledger pages — into playful, colorful compositions. The exhibition runs through Nov. 22. Opening reception 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. roomforartny.com

Kate Kortum Quartet
Indigo Room, 20 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass.
Award-winning jazz vocalist Kate Kortum brings her quartet to the Mahaiwe’s intimate Indigo Room for two performances. A Juilliard graduate and winner of the 2025 Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition. 5:30 and 8:30 p.m. Tickets mahaiwe.org

Pete Anderson Trio: Gershwin Classics
The Smithfield Church, 656 Smithfield Valley Road, Amenia, N.Y.
The Pete Anderson Trio performs a program of George Gershwin classics as part of the Bang Family Concert Series. Refreshments follow the performance. The church is fully accessible. 3 p.m. Suggested donation \$20; children free. thesmithfieldchurch.org/concerts

ArtEast Open Studio Tour
Eastern Dutchess County and neighboring Putnam County, N.Y.
Oct. 17 to 18 and 24 to 25
ArtEast’s annual fall tour in-

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

vites visitors into the working studios of artists in Holmes, LaGrangeville, Hopewell Junction, Pawling, Patterson, Poughquag and Wingdale. Meet the artists, see works in a variety of media and get a behind-the-scenes look at their creative processes. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Some studios are open the first weekend only. More info at arteast-dutchess.com

Forest Bathing with Fru Molnar
Innisfree Garden, 362 Tyrrel Road, Millbrook, N.Y.
Slow down, awaken your senses, and discover the restorative power of nature during a peaceful guided forest bathing experience among Innisfree’s autumn woodlands. 10:30 a.m.

Hunt for Books Giant Book Sale
David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org
The Friends of the Hunt Library hosts a giant book sale featuring thousands of new and gently used books at bargain prices. The sale coincides with the Apples ‘n’ Things fall festival across the street at Falls Village Congregational Church, featuring baked goods and handmade crafts. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free admission.

Candlelight Reading with Laurie Lane-Zucker
Race Brook Lodge, 864 S. Undermountain Road, Sheffield, Mass.
Sheffield author Laurie Lane-Zucker reads from his new book, “The Impact Entrepreneur Breakthrough: A Field Manual for the Regenerative Economy.” Part memoir and part portrait of pioneering changemakers, the book includes a 2018 gathering of global leaders at Race Brook Lodge. Signed copies will be available. 7:30 p.m. Free.

Rachel Sumner & Traveling Light
Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.
Fresh off their 2025 Telluride Bluegrass Band Contest win, the Boston-based trio blends folk tradition with feminist storytelling, poetic grit and close harmonies. 7:30 p.m. Tickets at thestissingcenter.org

“Lightworkers” Documentary Screening
Bushnell-Sage Library, 48 Main St., Sheffield, Mass.
A free screening of “Lightworkers,” Bobby Roth’s documentary featuring people responding to social, political and environmental challenges through individual action and collective responsibility. The film asks what each person can do to help build a more just and compassionate world. 2 to 4 p.m. Free.

Books & Cake Anniversary Celebration
Books & Cake, 8 Anthony St., Hillsdale, N.Y.
Books & Cake marks its first anniversary with a day of cupcakes, giveaways and good cheer, including coffee mugs while supplies last and tote bags for the first 20 visitors. The celebration concludes with thriller writer William Landay, author of “Defending Jacob,” in conversation at 5:30 p.m. Free; reservations

for the author talk at book-sandcake.com/events.

“Mad as Hell”
Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. cornwalllibrary.org
Harry Moses, longtime “60 Minutes” producer and author of “Mad as Hell: How 60 Minutes Took on the Powerful and Made Television History,” discusses the groundbreaking news program with Richard Schlesinger, former CBS News correspondent. 5 p.m. In-person only. Registration required at 860-672-6874 or CornwallLibrary.org.

A Tasting Party, for the Kids Without the Kids
Lakeville Town Grove, 42 Ethan Allen St., Lakeville, Conn.
An evening of wine, beer and culinary experiences will benefit Housatonic Child Care

Center. Tickets are available by calling 860-435-9694.

Community Reuse & Repair Cafe
Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. bring your clothing, bikes, small appliances, furniture and more and get help and tips from skilled volunteers to fix it, share it, love it and keep it out of landfill! Also, knife sharpening available. Organized by Sharon Energy and Environment Commission.

Book Talk with Tarajia Morrell
Troutbeck, 515 Leedsville Road, Amenia, N.Y.
Join Tarajia Morrell for a pre-release book launch of “Desire Feeds the Feast,” a memoir about food, love, loss and finding home. Morrell, a James Beard Award-winning writer and Troutbeck’s communications director, will discuss the book, followed by a signing. Refreshments will

be served. 4 p.m. tickets at troutbeck.com

■ OCTOBER 25 All-Ages Craftspace: Block-Printing
Common Place Craft Workshop, 50 Main St., Millerton, N.Y.
Experiment with block-printing using easy-to-use print-making tools and pre-cut rubber stamping blocks, with tote bags, note cards and wood photo frames available to decorate. All ages; coffee and tea served. 10:30 a.m. to noon. Register at commonplacecraft.square.site

Cottage Courses: Spoon Carving with Kate Hawes
Troutbeck, 515 Leedsville Road, Amenia, N.Y.
Learn the fundamentals of spoon carving in a hands-on workshop led by woodworker Kate Hawes. Suitable for beginners and those with some woodworking experience. 1 to 4 p.m. \$120. Registration required at troutbeck.com

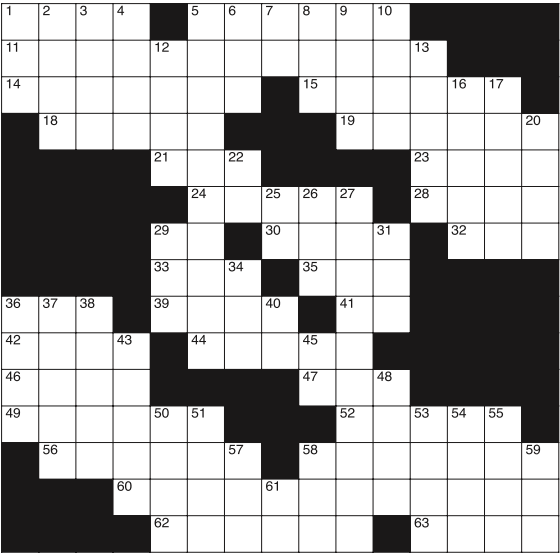
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. El Dorado High School
- 5. A sculpture representing a human or animal
- 11. A type of return
- 14. Tie the knot again
- 15. Washington city
- 18. Hairlike structures
- 19. Mark used over a vowel
- 21. Explosive
- 23. Popular 500 car race
- 24. Pile up
- 28. Currency
- 29. Commercial
- 30. A minute amount (Scottish)
- 32. Mass of fish eggs
- 33. Baseball stat
- 35. Licensed accountant
- 36. Japanese classical theater
- 39. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 41. Blood group
- 42. Assist in wrongdoing
- 44. Language of Cameroon
- 46. Grayish-white
- 47. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- 49. Microorganism
- 52. Strong social customs
- 56. Calm and dependable
- 58. Congressman
- 60. Force
- 62. As a result of this document
- 63. A main branch of Islam

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Make a mistake
- 2. American DJ Rick
- 3. Fictional Asimov planet
- 4. Coughed out
- 5. Singing to one’s lover
- 6. Scotland’s longest river
- 7. One of the six noble gases
- 8. Body art
- 9. Two-toed sloth
- 10. Electronic counter-countermeasures



- 12. A foolish person
- 13. Of the wind
- 16. Mansion
- 17. Sound
- 20. English river
- 22. Business symbol
- 25. Exclamation of surprise
- 26. Pouch
- 27. Individually
- 29. Satisfaction
- 31. The bill in a restaurant
- 34. Japanese delicacy
- 36. Port in southern Japan
- 37. Double-reed instruments
- 38. Center
- 40. “The Mount Rushmore State”
- 43. Soldier
- 45. Indicates position
- 48. Beauty treatment: —pedi
- 50. Nonsense (slang)

- 51. Republic of Ireland
- 53. Ballplayers’ tools
- 54. American state
- 55. Clusters of a fern frond
- 57. Patriotic women’s group
- 58. A person’s brother or sister
- 59. Breed of sheep
- 61. Of I

October 15 Solution

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

October 15 Solution

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



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Sports

Housatonic volleyball takes on Wolcott Tech

By Riley Klein

TORRINGTON— Housatonic Valley Regional High School's junior varsity and varsity volleyball teams traveled to Oliver Wolcott Technical High School for matches Wednesday, Oct. 14.

The afternoon of volleyball began with the junior varsity teams and was followed by the varsity squads.

In the JV match, the two sides were even at 1-1 after splitting the first two sets. Then HVRHS clinched a decisive 25-17 victory in the third set to win the match 2-1.

For varsity, Wolcott Tech entered the gym with a record of 13-1 and the Wildcats were ranked 2nd in the state's Class S division. HVRHS came in as the underdogs with a record of 4-7 and the team battled through three hardfought sets in a best-of-five series.

Wolcott Tech took an early lead in the first set but HVRHS tied it up at 10-10. After six ties and six lead changes the score remained even at 19-19.

Each team's middle blockers — Sydney Howe for HVRHS and Leah Sterling for Wolcott Tech — were dueling at center net. The Wildcats went on a short run to put away the first set 25-21.

The second set began the same way until HVRHS pulled ahead on a serving run by Avya Fenn. Lily Danforth Gold found success at the service line as well and helped HVRHS go up 14-10.



Housatonic's Avya Fenn spikes the ball.

Wolcott Tech responded to tie the set at 20-20. Another late surge propelled the Wildcats to a 25-23 win in set two.

The trend continued in the third set with repeated ties and lead changes up to 10-10. Then Wolcott Tech's libero Chiara Ladonna caught fire while serving and the Wildcats took a 20-11 lead.

Strong defensive efforts by Kenszi Watson, Lydia

Fleming, Kellie Eisermann, Taylen Leonard and Mia Belter helped HVRHS extend the third set, but ultimately Wolcott Tech won 25-16.

After the 3-0 match result, Wolcott Tech's record advanced to 14-1 and HVRHS moved to 4-8. Just a handful of regular season games remain before the first round of Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference tournaments begin Nov. 7.



Housatonic's Sydney Howe and Madelyn Doherty compete.

PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

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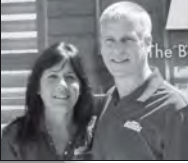
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