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# The Lakeville Journal

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

## DEEP stays the course with plan to cut 66 pines

By Patrick L. Sullivan

CORNWALL — Senior officials from the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) held a Zoom meeting with 90-odd citizens concerned about removing trees at Housatonic Meadows State Park Thursday, Jan. 6.

Deputy Commissioner Mason Trumble began with an apology, saying he wished the meeting had occurred before trees were cut in November — including a row of oak trees on a high bank overlooking the Housatonic River that was a popular picnic spot.

Tom Taylor, director of state parks, said Connecticut has 110 parks covering 255,000 acres, not to mention 32 state forests. State

See DEEP, Page A6



## Not too cold to ski!

Despite frigid temperatures over the weekend of Jan. 8-9, Mohawk Mountain ski area in Cornwall was packed with skiers of all ages.

PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN



PHOTO BY CHUCK ALEKSINAS

Debra Aleksinas, who has been a freelance investigative reporter for The Lakeville Journal since 2018, will be the new editor of The Lakeville Journal, replacing Cynthia Hochswender.

## Transitions at The Lakeville Journal

As of Jan. 17, there will be a change at the helm of The Lakeville Journal. Executive Editor Cynthia Hochswender, who has been in that role since 2005, will step down from editing the news and will only edit the weekly Compass arts and entertainment section, as well as some special supplements to The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News. Hochswender has edited both The Lakeville Journal and Compass over the past two years, during COVID-19 restrictions and limitations on events. Before becoming executive editor, Hochswender was a reporter for The Lakeville Journal from 1999 to 2005.

"I've deeply enjoyed spending more than two decades observing, learning about and writing about our community,"

Hochswender said. "It's time for someone to step in and take a fresh look at our towns and the issues that matter to them, and I'm confident that Debra Aleksinas is the perfect person to do so. Her compassion and intelligence will be a benefit in The Lakeville Journal's coverage of the Northwest Corner.

"As part of my decision to step down from the news side, I'm also embarking on a new career as a Realtor based in Salisbury. I will look forward to continuing to interact with our faithful readers and community leaders in that role as well as in my new role as editor of Compass."

Debra Aleksinas of Morris, who has written many in-depth articles for The Lakeville Journal newspapers since 2018, will take over the position of Lakeville Journal

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## Noble has first resident COVID case

# Nursing homes 'asked' by state to accept COVID patients

By Debra A. Aleksinas

After two years of keeping COVID-19 infections out of its Salisbury nursing facility, Bill Pond, administrator of the Noble Horizons Senior Community, on Friday, Jan. 7, reported the first positive coronavirus case among its residents since the pandemic started.

"It's more challenging right now than it has been during any other time of the pandemic," said Pond, who noted that the infected nursing home patient is asymptomatic and showing no signs of illness. "Honestly, it's not too much of a surprise considering the community spread."

He said Noble is following all established policies and procedures for reporting and isolating the COVID-positive resident, and he has been in close communication with the state Department of Public Health (DPH), as this is the facility's first identified case among the nursing home's resident population.

### Nursing homes 'asked' to take in COVID patients

Pond's announcement followed on the heels of a set of directives by the state last week, one from DPH Commissioner Manisha Juthani asking that nursing homes start accepting COVID-positive admissions from hospitals; and a second from Gov. Ned Lamont mandating that all long-term care facility staff receive booster shots by Feb. 11.

"After what we've been through, we are being very, very cautious on who we want to introduce, or cohort, into the building."

Kevin O'Connell, CEO, Geer Village

The Jan. 6 guidance from DPH and the Jan. 7 order from Lamont came as the state's case positivity rate soared to a record high of nearly 25%.

"We understand what the problem is, we know that hospitals are filling up with COVID-positive patients and they really need relief," said Kevin O'Connell, CEO of the Geer Village Senior Community in North Canaan.

### Goal one: safety for residents, staff

Last fall, an outbreak at Geer's nursing and rehabilitation center sickened 67 residents and 22 staff members. Eight residents died. It took several months to stop the contagion.

O'Connell said his primary obligation is to keep his current residents and staff safe.

"I know the intent is good. They are trying to relieve a bottleneck in the system. But it's moving the problem from one facility to another."

He said any referrals of additional, non-resident

COVID-19 patients will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

"We will not be denying patients solely because they have not recovered from COVID in the hospital, or those that are not vaccinated, but we have to have the ability to provide care for these individuals."

### Goal 2: properly care for new patients

The overwhelming challenge with accepting COVID-positive patients is having enough staff to man an isolation unit separate from the general patient population, at a time when resources are at a critical point, according to nursing home administrators.

"To have the capacity to do that we may need to deny patients based on our inability to provide care," said O'Connell. "You have to have the personnel to cover that isolation unit. Just for two or three people you

would need staff 24 hours a day, every single day, and that can be really, really challenging in today's world."

At Noble Horizons, Pond described his facility's current staffing situation as "significantly compromised." As a result, the 91-bed nursing home had paused new admissions "of any kind" over the past six months, he said.

"We have trained our department heads to be temporary CNAs so they can help. We are just not in a position to add any types of admission" to the existing nursing home census, said the Noble administrator.

Pond stressed that while he wants to be able to support the local hospitals, considering the current situation, "It's not something we can do in good faith and provide proper care, either. It really is a moral dilemma."

Early in the pandemic, the state had opened several recovery centers specifically to care for COVID-positive patients, including one at the Sharon Health Care Center, part of the Athena Health Care Systems. An Athena spokesman

See NURSING, Page A6

"It's not something we can do in good faith and provide proper care, either. It really is a moral dilemma."

Bill Pond, Administrator, Noble Horizons



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# Regional

## In The Journal this week

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 OPINION..... B3  
 OBITUARIES ..... A4-5  
 VIEWPOINT ..... B4  
 COMPASS..... B1-2  
 CLASSIFIEDS..... B5-6

### Three-day forecast

Friday..... Cloudy, high 27°/low 7°  
 Saturday..... Cloudy, 12°/0°  
 Sunday..... Snow, 25°/5°

## 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.

### Texting and driving

On Jan. 1 at approximately 1:45 a.m. on Lime Rock Road in Salisbury a 2012 Volvo XC60 driven by Cindy Marie Brothers, 26, of Salisbury veered off the right shoulder of the road and struck an Eversource utility pole. Brothers was texting while driving. The collision caused the Volvo to overturn onto its roof. Brothers was evaluated but released without injury. She was issued a citation for failure to maintain the lane and operating a motor vehicle while handling a mobile phone.

### Drove into a tree

On Jan. 1 at approximately 4:45 p.m. on Route 7 in Salisbury a 2015 Chevrolet Cruze Diesel driven by Guy Maxwell Ule, 62, of Cornwall crossed into the oncoming lane and traveled off the road, colliding with a tree. Ule was transported to Sharon Hospital for evaluation. He was found at fault for the accident and issued a written warning for failure to maintain the lane.

### DUI

On Jan. 1 at approximately 4:45 p.m. on East Canaan Road in North Canaan, Christopher Martin, 34, of Winsted failed a standardized field sobriety test following a traffic stop. He was charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs and failure to maintain the proper lane. He was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on Jan. 14.

### Damaged property at Camp Isola Bella

On Jan. 6 at approximately 8 a.m. on Twin Lakes Road in Salisbury a 2015 Honda CRV driven by Mary Ortega, 44, of Sheffield, Mass., lost control on the icy roads and collided with a fence and sign belonging to Camp Isola Bella, operated by the American School for the Deaf. Ortega was issued an infraction for traveling too fast for the conditions.

### Drove into ditch

On Jan. 6 at approximately 3:15 a.m. on Sharon Valley Road in Sharon a 2020 Ford Ranger driven by Robert

Leibrock, 65, of Sharon lost control on the icy road and traveled into a ditch. The Ford was pulled out of the ditch. Leibrock was issued a verbal warning for traveling too fast for the conditions.

### Struck a utility pole

On Jan. 7 at approximately 7 p.m. on Route 63 in Falls Village a 2008 Ford Fusion driven by William Mauro Nadeau, 38, of Torrington swerved into the oncoming lane and lost control, striking a SNET utility pole. Nadeau refused EMS care. He was issued an infraction for failure to maintain the lane.

### Drove into a tree

On Jan. 7 at approximately 8 a.m. on Taconic Road in Salisbury a 2011 Toyota FF Cruiser driven by Nicholas Armando D'Onofrio, 25, of Great Barrington, Mass., exited the roadway and drove into a tree. D'Onofrio was issued a written warning for traveling too fast for the conditions.

### Struck a utility pole

On Jan. 7 at approximately 8 p.m. on Lime Rock Road in Salisbury a 2006 Ford F250 Super Duty driven by Elijah Rain Thomson, 17, of Lakeville pulled to the side of the road to avoid a vehicle that had crossed into oncoming traffic. The Ford exited the roadway and struck a CL&P utility pole and a traffic sign. The other vehicle fled the scene. The incident remains under investigation.

The Lakeville Journal will publish the outcome of police charges. Contact us by mail at P.O. Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039, Attn: Police Blotter, or send an email, with "police blotter" in the subject line, to [cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com).

## Award for Art Gingert will help protect a rare bird

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — There is yet another bird for bird watchers to watch for and, thanks to a Cornwall resident, watchers are now more likely to spot the American Kestrel. West Cornwall resident Art Gingert has created custom nesting boxes and installed them throughout the region — and has earned an annual award from Aquarion Water Company for his work.

Gingert was recognized by the water company as a 2021 Environmental Champion in the Adult Class. Gingert, in turn, selected the Cornwall Conservation Trust (CCT) to receive and administer the \$2,500 award that comes with the honor.

Beginning in 1977 in Sharon and Lakeville, Gingert has installed numerous special nesting boxes for the Kestrels throughout Litchfield County and north central Connecticut.

A recent count indicated more than 85 such boxes installed in more than 30 towns. His box design is recognized by experts as the "gold standard" for the species.

The American Kestrel is a small, colorful bird in the falcon class, described as similar in size to a Mourning Dove.

Faced with a shrinking natural habitat, its numbers have dwindled.

Causes cited are reductions in agricultural land, reforestation of that land, residual pesticides, and development in general.

The bird prefers a habitat in short grasses, meadows and undisturbed open land.

Commenting on the honor, CCT President Bart Jones said, "An important part of Cornwall Conservation Trust's mission



IMAGE FROM AQUARION

Art Gingert of West Cornwall has been honored for his efforts to protect the rare American Kestrel.

seeks to preserve and protect forests and fields to promote wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

"Helping these award funds support Art Gingert's work with American Kestrels rep-

resents a small but vital and tangible part of that larger mission."

Gingert is an arborist and volunteer conservationist. He spends much time outdoors, where he has developed talents

in photographing nature and leading expeditions through Canada and Alaska. He has served as managing biologist for the Audubon Center in Sharon and its Miles Wildlife Sanctuary.

## FAMILY & FRIENDS

### Honor roll for North Canaan Elementary

NORTH CANAAN — This is the complete honor roll listing for North Canaan Elementary School.

An abbreviated list was printed in our issue of Jan. 6. The Lakeville Journal apologizes to the families.

#### Honors, Grade 5

Prestyn Handlowich, Aliha Massey

#### Honors, Grade 8

Caiden Brewer

#### High Honors, Grade 5

Sophia Bascetta, Connor Crane, Destini Dingee, Sophia Funk, Ava Humes, Riley LaPlante, Tyler LaPlante, Autumn McKone, Sofia Paz-Cor-

tez, Roshwen Rivas, Mason Routhier, Owen Simmons, Olivia Simonds, Julian Swanson, Abigail Veilleux, Scarlett Visconti, Kaylea Wolfe

#### High Honors, Grade 6

Luca Bascetta, Paige Beeman, Peyton Bushnell, Teah Fredenburg, Giovanni Solorzano-Lemus, Sierra Szymanski, Camdyn Tallon, Erick Trotta, Federico Vargas, Collin Walsh

#### High Honors, Grade 7

Olivia Claydon, Natasha Dennis, Lydia Fleming, Sydney Howe, Brayan Lopez-Gonzalez, Gustavo Portillo, Carson Riva, Ivy Zheng

#### High Honors, Grade 8

Wesley Allyn, Christopher Crane, Richard Crane, Alexa Meach, Cole Simonds, Lauren Sorrell

#### Highest Honors, Grade 5

Lainey Diorio, Lyla Diorio, Carter Finney, Ryan Hinman, Katelyn Holst-Grubbe, Elexis Petkovich, Justin Sorrell

#### Highest Honors, Grade 6

Caitlin Devino, Abigail Perotti

#### Highest Honors, Grade 7

Adelyn Diorio, Emeline Krauz

#### Highest Honors, Grade 8

Katherine Crane, Shanaya Duprey, Hannah Johnson, Madelyn Johnson

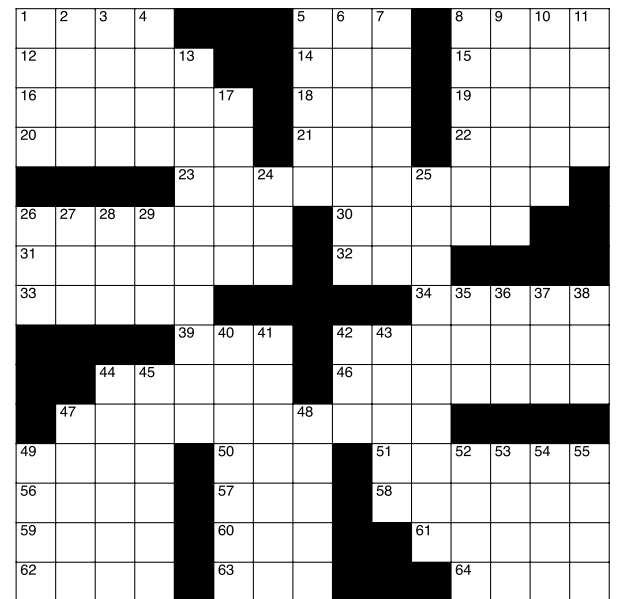
### Correcting Errors

We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning.

## Brain Teasers

### CLUES ACROSS

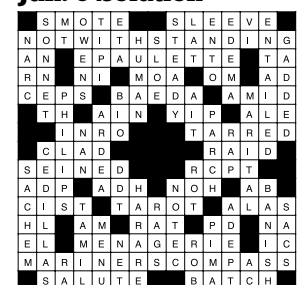
- Requests
- Calendar month
- Invests in little enterprises
- Bird sound
- S. American plant cultivated for tubers
- Car
- Bullfighter
- Hill (Celtic)
- Strong criticism
- Detector
- When you hope to get there
- Having the skill to do something
- Legendary MLB broadcaster
- Vulcanite
- C. Asian mountain range
- In a way, healed
- Midway between east and southeast
- Small appendages of insects
- \_\_\_ Greene, "Bonanza" actor
- A place to bathe
- Postal worker accessory
- Classical music
- A way of wrecking
- Terminator
- You eat three a day
- Pointed end of a pen
- NATO official (abbr.)
- Genus of clams
- Boxing's "G.O.A.T."
- A colorless, odorless gas used as fuel
- Covered thinly with gold paint
- Bachelor of Laws
- Red fluorescent dye
- Engineering group
- Female sibling
- Adjacent



- Excluded from use or mention
- Speak
- Bloodshot
- Make better
- Keyboard key
- Type of degree
- Paddle
- Peacock network
- Not young
- Baseball stat
- One's grandmother
- Breakfast food
- Bathroom features
- Disease-causing bacterium
- NY ballplayer
- Got up
- Prophet
- Part of the mouth
- Unnatural

- Acronym for brain science study
- Three are famous
- Languages spoken in Patagonia
- Freedom from difficulty
- Widely used OS
- Many people pay it

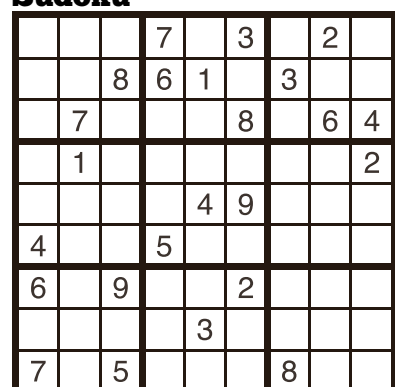
### Jan. 6 Solution



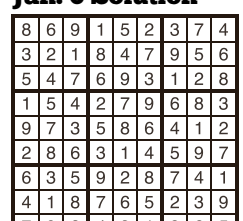
### CLUES DOWN

- What a thespian does
- Footwear
- Adjust spacing between
- Witnesses
- Who shows excessive fondness
- Distinct form of a plant
- National capital
- Hunting expedition
- Related to medulla oblongata
- European country
- Cola

### Sudoku



### Jan. 6 Solution



Level: Intermediate

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## Our Towns

# After decades, a new chair for NC P&Z

By Cynthia Hochswender

NORTH CANAAN — In the 2021 municipal election, longtime Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) Chair Steve Allyn was not returned to the seat that he had held for decades.

Two new members were added to the five-person board — albeit two members with deep knowledge of the town and experience on municipal and regional organizations.

One of the new commissioners is Douglas Humes, who was the town's first selectman for many years, and followed that up with a term as North Canaan's representative to the Region One Board of Education.

The other new member, Tim Abbott, who is also the new chair, is well known to anyone in the region with an interest in conservation and ecology. His formal title is Regional Land Conservation Director for the Housatonic Valley Association. He is the creator of the Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative, which maps and tracks conserved and protected lands in the region. He also

raises funds and creates partnerships that allow for new land protections to be created.

For many years he was also the Nature's Notebook columnist for The Lakeville Journal, sharing often-poetic musings about the environment and the landscape, with observations of everything from multi-state swaths of forests to the fireflies in the field beside his home.

That home has been in North Canaan for the past 20 years. While most of Abbott's professional life is regional, he is still very much interested in what happens on a local level.

He served on the P&Z for one four-year term in about 2010. Although he was an "alternate" member, he was seated for almost every meeting as a full member, he said.

Planning and zoning commissions in Connecticut towns are in charge of the regulations and the state-mandated Town Plan of Conservation and Development that give towns their look and feel. Regulations can be created that allow for industry and development; or they can limit such growth in order to protect the old-time look and feel of small, rural towns.

In North Canaan, the P&Z has five full members and three alternates. They have staggered terms so that, in every bi-annual municipal election, some members can step off the commission and new members can be elected. The state requires that there be a mix of members of both major political parties on all town boards and commissions.

Historically, there has not been an enormous amount of turnover on North Canaan's P&Z. Abbott said he was recruited to run as a Democrat, sharing the ticket with Allyn.

"I ran for office because I love my town and I have skills that I think will be helpful," he said. "And it had been an uncontested seat and I think it's good for people to have choices in an election."

Abbott recalled that when he ran for a full seat (after serving a term as an alternate), he was not elected, and he wasn't completely expecting to earn a seat this time around. He certainly didn't expect to unseat the longtime chairman. He was asked quietly if he would consider being chair of the commission and then was elected to the top spot in December.

Although Abbott's professional background and training are in environmental and land conservation issues, he said that he has not come to his new office with the intention of trying to make North Canaan a greener town (although of course that's always nice).

## Kent selectmen accept Emergency Services resignation

By Leila Hawken

KENT — At their regular December meeting, the selectmen voted in favor of spending up to \$24,000 from the town's ARPA funds to update the town's Emergency Management Plan and accompanying pandemic preparedness plan.

At that time, Selectman Glenn Sanchez had asked First Selectman Jean Speck if the town's ARPA committee had seen the Emergency Management team's funding request. Speck, who is a member of the ARPA committee, said no.

Nonetheless, the vote to use the funds for the plan was unanimous.

Subsequently, the board reversed that vote.

At the board's meeting on Thursday, Jan. 6, Emergency Management Director David Becker resigned his position.

Deputy Director Eric Epstein has not resigned.

The vote to accept Becker's resignation was unanimous without discussion in advance of the vote. Following the vote, however, all expressed appreciation for Becker's service to the town's emergency services program, especially in handling the pandemic.

"I have no agenda," Abbott said. "I'm here to serve."

Of course, though, there are areas of interest both to Abbott and to the commission at large.

Affordable housing is high on that list, especially with the state's requirement that all towns have an affordable housing plan by summer 2022.

This is also an area of personal interest for Abbott: "I have a 21-year-old and an 18-year-old." Job creation for the younger generation is also an area of concern. "Having young people and businesses in town are what allow small rural communities to have a future."

He is encouraged by what he calls "a noticeable new energy in downtown North Canaan. There are places to go to eat, drink, explore. Empty Main Streets don't help anybody."

However, with a booming village center comes a new problem: parking.

The goal of the commission, Abbott feels, is to balance the commercial and residential needs of businesses and town residents — and above all, for people with concerns to feel those concerns are heard and respected.

Above all, he said, "We want a commission and regulations that will enable us to have a vibrant downtown with mixed uses; and a vibrant, sustainable rural community with diverse options for employment, health care and housing."

Speck commented further, "I am frustrated, sitting among boxes of masks and at-home testing kits to be distributed to residents." She said that she had hoped to encourage Becker to stay on in his position, having been instrumental in his having come to the position initially.

"I wish we could have done something with the emergency plan update," she added.

## Two Lakeville vaccine clinics

LAKEVILLE — There will be a vaccine and booster clinic for area residents ages 12 and up at the Grove Senior Center, 42 Ethan Allen St., in Lakeville on Thursday, Jan. 13, and Wednesday Feb. 9. All three vaccines and booster shots will be available.

No appointment is required. For further information, contact Lisa McAuliffe at 860-435-5186 or email [lmcauliffe@salisburyct.us](mailto:lmcauliffe@salisburyct.us).

## COVID-19 numbers on rise, Town Hall closes

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — First Selectman Curtis Rand opened the regular monthly selectmen's meeting on Monday, Jan. 3, with a warning of the increased number of COVID-19 cases and the extreme contagiousness of the omicron variant.

He said the town did receive a limited number of rapid tests from the state, which were given to "front-line" people, including employees at LaBonne's grocery store.

Town Hall is closed again to

the public, but the vestibule is open and people needing assistance can go there and find commonly used forms.

There is also a phone and a list of extensions so people can call inside for, say, a new fishing license. Selectman Chris Williams warned against too many people being in the vestibule at one time, and asked people to be patient and use common sense.

Other town halls in the region are following the same or similar protocols.

## From a master teacher, a history of the Civil War, Jan. 23

LITCHFIELD — The League of Women Voters of Litchfield County, Conn., and the Litchfield Historical Society welcome teacher, historian and author Peter Vermilyea for a virtual lecture on the work of women during the Civil War. The lecture will be offered on Zoom on Sunday, Jan. 23, at 3 p.m. but spots to participate are limited. Early registration is recommended. To register, go to [www.litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org) or email [registration@litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:registration@litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org).

Vermilyea is an award-winning teacher of history at Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village, Conn. A graduate of Gettysburg College, he is the scholarship director at his alma mater's Civil War Institute. He is currently completing a book on Litchfield County and the coming of the Civil War.



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When this newspaper made a plea to our readers for support in 2019, The Lakeville Journal Company, publishers of The Lakeville Journal, The Millerton News and [www.tricornernews.com](http://www.tricornernews.com), was at a crossroads. Then, we were looking at drastically cutting costs in order to survive.

Two years later, after two highly successful appeals to our readership for contributions that saved your local community newspapers, this small media company is in a very different place. Your generosity kept us alive, even during a worldwide pandemic, and we were able to apply for and receive tax-exempt status from the IRS as a public charity. Your contributions to The Lakeville Journal Foundation are now tax deductible to the extent permitted under the law. Now it is time to regroup again and make a new plan to take this media company into a successful future.

During COVID-19 shutdowns and restrictions, this company was able to obtain two PPP grants from the U.S. government, which, combined with our readers' generous support, helped us remain in place to report the news of your communities. Your wish for local news is what drives our mission, which publishes in the newspapers every week:

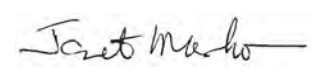
*Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.*

We sincerely ask you to be a Community Contributor, donating whatever you can to support local news, to The Lakeville Journal Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization. Unlike the last two years, your donations are now tax deductible within the limits of the law.

Thank you for keeping track of your local news in our publications, and profound gratitude for your support that kept The Lakeville Journal, The Millerton News and [www.tricornernews.com](http://www.tricornernews.com) here for your communities.



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## Our Towns

# Guidance and outdoor gear at 3 Guys Ski and Ride in West Cornwall

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — While short walks in the fresh air can be done without any particular equipment, most prolonged outdoor activities call for having the right gear. 3 Guys Ski and Ride offers gear as well as a personalized approach to the fit and use of that gear to maximize the experience, whether it's fair weather or foul.

Since opening in West Cornwall in March 2021, co-owners Jim Shockley and Michael Carr have been busy providing what they call "gear-related outdoor fun."

In a conversation last month, Shockley explained that despite the name of the shop, there are in fact only two guys running the business. There is actually no third guy. Someday the reason why the store got its name will be known but for now it remains mysterious.

What is known, however, is that the shop has a wide range of offerings suited for the outdoor life in a New England winter, with sporting apparel, backpacks, flat-pack portable grills and portable firepits, warm options for heads, ears, hands and feet, roller boards, skis, snowboards — and, important for people who are attracted to winter sports, whether they are skilled or not, the shop also carries an array of helmets and other protective gear, should things go a little

off-track.

Not sure what you need? Just ask.

"Customer service is our most important thing," Shockley said, adding that, "We stand behind everything."

To enhance the atmosphere of a friendly, small-town shop, there is complimentary coffee.

Pausing our conversation, Shockley offered advice to the parent of a young skier: "You want a tight-fitting boot. No two feet are exactly the same." Shockley explained that the boot should be snug around the feet, but that it's important to avoid pressure on shins due to the boot's height. This was a conversation worth an eavesdrop.

Shockley said that seasonal rentals of gear have changed everything for the ski industry, making the experience more affordable for more people. Young people grow out of their equipment so rapidly. Seasonal rentals make sense.

The shop is slowly expanding to include year-round outdoor sports. Shockley said that this spring, they plan to offer tennis racket stringing and stand-up paddle boards.

The shop is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. six days a week (it is closed on Tuesdays) at 406 Sharon-Goshen Turnpike in West Cornwall. The phone is 860-248-3281, the website is [www.threeguyskiandride.com](http://www.threeguyskiandride.com).



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Since opening last March, owners Jim Shockley and Michael Carr have guided the 3 Guys Ski and Ride shop into a strong presence for outdoor sports enthusiasts, offering an expanding list of equipment and accessory needs. Shockley paused for a recent photo on the welcoming porch of the comfortable shop.

## A busy year for ambulance volunteers

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Squad shared statistics on activity in 2021.

The volunteers responded to 574 calls, which was 36 more calls than in 2020 and 35 more than in 2019.

Broken down, that is 42 calls in January, 54 in February, 42 in March, 43 in April, 42 in May, 37 in June, 56 in July, 63 in August, 56 in September, 55 in October, 32 in November and 43 in December.

SVAS serves a population of 4,194 (according to the 2019 census). The boarding schools add a population of about 900 more; the population also increased during COVID-19 as more people moved to the Northwest Corner full time. The volunteer squad covers 60.65 square miles of area.

The top five responders for the year were Jacquie Rice (144), Nick DeAngelis (140), Marie Castagna (112), Bob Fails (112) and Mike Brenner (110).

The volunteers had their annual election of officers on Wednesday, Jan. 5, with no changes voted in. As in 2021, Jacquie Rice is chief, Mike Brenner is assistant chief, Bob Chase is first aid chief, Josh Allyn is rescue chief and Sue Bayer is secretary.

Volunteer Marie Castagna notes that, "as always we are looking for more volunteers."

No experience is required. The squad includes many families and creates a family and community of its own. Volunteers come from all types of work and all walks of life.

"Each person adds their own speciality to our squad. Come join us and become a part of our family," Castagna said.

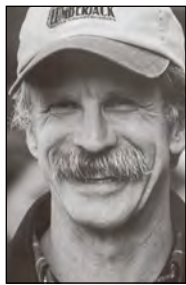
To learn more, call Castagna at 860-307-5021 or go online to [www.Salisburyambulance.org](http://www.Salisburyambulance.org); click on the link called "Give the gift of volunteering."

— Cynthia Hochswender

## OBITUARIES

### Peter Demarest Adams

LAKEVILLE — Peter Demarest Adams, 77, died peacefully at home in Ashfield, Mass., from Parkinson's disease on Dec. 24, 2021.



He was born in New York City to Demarest Adams and Elizabeth (van Bibber) Adams on April 7, 1944. Peter's father died suddenly when Peter was just shy of 6 years old, his mother remarried, and he and his mother and sisters moved to Hartford, Conn., where he became one of seven children.

Peter spent his high school years at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, went on to Brown University, graduating with a B.A. in 1967, and then returned to Hotchkiss, where he soon became Director of Admissions and Financial Aid, a position he held until 1980 when he left Hotchkiss for graduate school.

Motivated to help teenagers and their parents navigate both adolescence and education, Peter pursued his M. Ed. from Harvard University and opened his Educational Counseling practice in 1981, work he continued until he retired in 2011.

Always one to think resourcefully and thoughtfully, Peter helped hundreds of students find ways not only to enhance their education, but also to broaden their dreams for a future they might not have considered possible. Peter partic-

ularly enjoyed working with students for whom education was a challenge and not always a linear track, teenagers who felt they didn't fit anywhere.

Creative in making a match of the most appropriate schools for a wide range of students, Peter co-founded I-Way, a consulting firm in Germany, which helped European students experience American independent schools and colleges.

Peter had a unique, compassionate understanding of adolescents' diverse learning styles and a kind calmness that built trust and confidence in the families he came to know. He wanted to listen to, and learn about, every person he met — and he wanted everyone he met to thrive.

During his career Peter sat on the boards of The Ben Bronz Academy in West Hartford, The Cobb School in Simsbury, ASSIST Inc. in Suffield and A Better Chance in New York City.

Peter was a genuine altruist, intuitive, curious, insightful, gracious, kind and positive.

Just as Peter never met a person he didn't want to help, he never found a problem around the house he didn't want to make right.

He sought the outdoors, whether in a canoe or on a

beach or ski slope, in the garden or on a dirt road, or just reading the paper in the shade on a summer afternoon.

Most of all, Peter loved his family, and his bright blue eyes sparkled when he was with them. The only thing that ever confined Peter was Parkinson's disease, a cruel diagnosis that robbed his body and his mind of the physical activity and the intellectual mobility he had always prized. Even then, he continued to be the kind, thoughtful man he always was; he never once complained.

Peter is survived by his wife, Nancy Henderson; his daughters, Kit Bayer and Beatrice Adams; his sons, Jack Henderson-Adams and Alexander Adams; his sisters, Sally Vaun, Judy Lee and Elizabeth Adams; his brothers, Tim Lee and Spencer Lee; his mother-in-law, Patricia Henderson; his brother-in-law, Jack Henderson; his sister-in-law, Marnie Henderson; and his son-in-law, Sean Bayer.

A memorial service will be held in the Chapel at The Hotchkiss School at 2 p.m. on June 19, Fathers' Day.

Donations in Peter's memory may be sent to The Hilltown Churches Food Pantry, P.O. Box 161, Ashfield MA 01330.

For more obituaries, see page A5

### Show of work by a computer art pioneer

CORNWALL — A show of work by Mark Wilson remains on display at the Cornwall Library through Feb. 19.

Wilson is a longtime West Cornwall resident and a digital art pioneer. His show is called "Mutable: An exhibition of ink jet prints on canvas."

For more information, go to [www.cornwalllibrary.org/art-exhibits](http://www.cornwalllibrary.org/art-exhibits).

### Work by Mongeau at Douglas Library

NORTH CANAAN — Hope Mongeau of Lakeville has paintings on display at the Douglas Library in North Canaan during the month of January. The library is open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. For information on library hours, go to [www.douglaslibrarycanaan.org](http://www.douglaslibrarycanaan.org).

## Here's where you'll find expertise in Parkinson's and movement disorders.



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Dr. Benjamin Dorfman

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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

**BALLET: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER**

## Balanchine and his Influence On Ballet in the 20th-Century

Anyone interested in classical ballet will know the name of choreographer George Balanchine; even those of us who are only familiar at a glance with the history of dance at least know who he is and understand that he was one of the towering figures.

Perhaps as important as his artistic vision and his choreography is the impact he had on ballet through his teaching.

The Moviehouse in Millerton, N.Y., offers a chance this weekend and next weekend to get a more intimate understanding of who Balanchine was as a person, teacher and choreographer; and to see a performance by the Bolshoi Ballet of Balanchine's "Jewels."

On Sunday, Jan. 16, at 1 p.m., there will be a screening of a film called "In Balanchine's Classroom," directed by ballerina Connie Hochman. The film includes interviews with 90 former Balanchine dancers, who share their memories of what they learned, how they learned it and how working with the master changed their

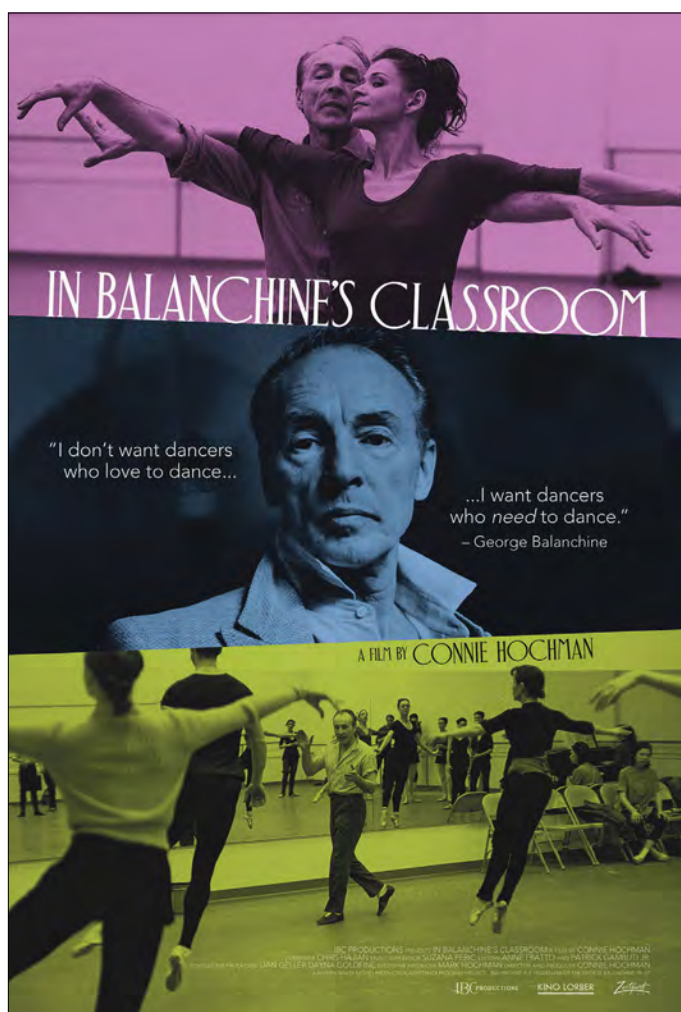


PHOTO OF POSTER

**The Moviehouse in Millerton, N.Y., combines a screening of "In Balanchine's Classroom" with a panel discussion with former Balanchine dancers, and then a Bolshoi Ballet performance of "Jewels," on Jan. 16 and 23.**

lives and careers.

Some of the names included in the film will be familiar to anyone even remotely interested in dance

in the mid to late 20th century: Jacques D'Amboise, Merrill Ashley, Gloria Govrin, Suki Schorer, Edward Villella and Heather Watts.

Adding to that, there will be a panel discussion after the film led by Miriam Mahdavian, who danced for the New York City Ballet under the direction of Balanchine, Jerome Robbins and Peter Martins. She will be joined by John Meehan, who was a principal dancer and is professor of dance and director of Vassar Repertory Dance Theatre as well as Frances Daly Fergusson Chair in the Humanities at Vassar College; Peter Naumann who is also a former New York City Ballet principal, choreographer and is current Ballet Master at New Palz Ballet Theater; and Lisa Chalmers-Naumann, who was a Balanchine protégée, a former New York City Ballet principal and is now Ballet Mistress at New Palz Ballet Theater.

All this leads up to the performance, "captured live," of "Jewels," choreographed by Balanchine and featuring the music of Fauré, Stravinsky and Tchaikovsky. That performance on Sunday, Jan. 23, begins at 12:55 p.m.

For more information and to order tickets, go to [www.themoviehouse.net](http://www.themoviehouse.net).

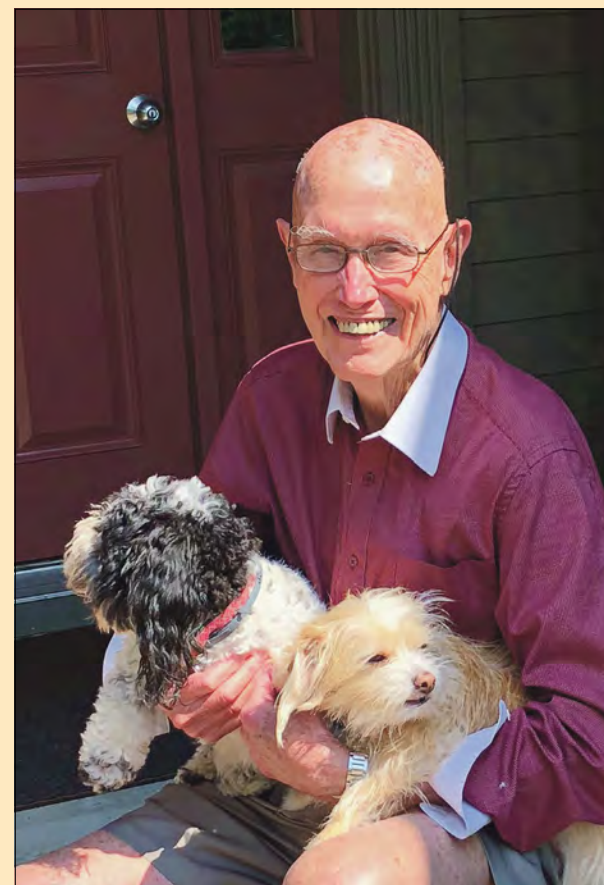


PHOTO BY ESTHER LOPEZ

**Jim Flaherty, the man who rescued Troutbeck from decades of neglect in the mid 1970s, has now written a memoir that finds the fun in growing older.**

**LOCAL AUTHOR: LEILA HAWKEN**

## Finding the Joy In Aging, With Jim Flaherty

Hospitable to the core, author Jim Flaherty has invited old friends and new to share in his life-affirming aging philosophy and along the way to laugh, to nod in recognition and amusement, to think, and to follow his wise advice.

The advice packs a wallop, cajoling readers into rekindling latent energy and applying it to whatever large or small passion awaits.

This little book has a long title: "Dear Old Friends: A loving reminder the band won't stop playing till you stop dancing."

It was actually written as a memoir 44 years ago, set aside in early middle age and forgotten. Flaherty (who is now 86) recently came across the manuscript and realized that its words speak to his older self — and should be shared with others who had matured along with him.

The result is a readable stroll through decades of valued friendships, first with personalities who were decades older than he, and later with progressively younger friends who listen well to his 86 years of positive warmth and wisdom.

The book will no doubt sell well, if for no other reason than that Flaherty has had so many friends and acquaintances in the region through the years. Many of those bonds were formed during the decades during which he and his late partner, Bob Skibsted, trans-

formed the historic Troutbeck estate in Amenia, N.Y., into a resort hotel complex known for fine dining and comfortable traditionally furnished rooms. The downstairs rooms include multiple fireplaces, a cozy library, stone walls, indoor and outdoor swimming pools and acres of trails, many of them winding through exquisitely landscaped grounds. Troutbeck was sold in 2016 to Alexandra, Anthony, and Charlie Champalimaud — leaving Flaherty at last with some time to polish up the chapters and share his book with the world.

Flaherty peppers the manuscript with aphorisms — serious and humorous gems that he has collected over the years. It all adds up to a satisfying jaunt through many golden years.

This book teaches readers that growing old can be instructive and even rather funny. Made so attractive, growing older may be something readers will want to try for themselves, maybe discovering something new along the way. Why not?

This deeply and literally friendly book is available on Amazon and Kindle.

Jim Flaherty will talk about his book, "Dear Old Friends: A loving reminder the band won't stop playing till you stop dancing," in a Zoom presentation hosted by Noble Horizons on Saturday, Jan. 29, at 11 a.m. More information and a Zoom link are available at [www.noblehorizons.org](http://www.noblehorizons.org).



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

**The Kent Memorial Library begins its centennial celebration with a history presentation on Jan. 29.**

## BRINGING TO LIFE THE HISTORY OF A CENTURY-OLD LIBRARY

The Kent Library Association in Kent, Conn., begins the celebration of its 100th birthday with the staged reading of "Bricks and Books: A Dramatized History of the Kent Memorial Library," on Saturday, Jan. 29, at 6 p.m. in the St. Andrew's parish hall in Kent.

The story begins in the 1880s and continues up

through the dedication of the library building on Nov. 11, 1925. It comes alive with diary excerpts and personal reminiscences from early members of the Library Association, letters from the period (including one from a president of the United States) and more.

Six readers will bring the creation of the library to life and talk about important figures from the town's history including Orinda Pratt and Helen Roberts Bull.

The reading was compiled and written by Georgianne Ensign Kent and will be directed by Jane Farnol. There will be a reception following the show, with light refreshments.

Proof of vaccination is required for attendance, and audience members are required to wear masks; register in advance at the library website at [www.kentmemoriallibrary.org](http://www.kentmemoriallibrary.org). The snow date is Saturday, Feb. 6, at 6 p.m.

To advertise your event, call 860-435-9873 or email [advertising@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:advertising@lakevillejournal.com)



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IMAGES FROM REX BRASHER ASSOCIATION

**BIRDS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER**

# Bringing Rex Brasher's Watercolors of Birds Back to Life

The people we most admire can sometimes do things that deeply disappoint us. Such is the case for many ornithologists, who have had to balance their admiration for the bird paintings of John James Audubon with his racism and other offenses.

As a young boy, Rex Brasher was disappointed by Audubon for another reason: He and his father had traveled to see the great nature painter, who had granted them "an audience."

When father and son arrived, they were told that Audubon would not see them after all, because he was too busy. According to legend, the young Rex

Brasher poked his head through a door and saw Audubon at work, painting a dead bird hanging from the ceiling. At that moment, according to the biographical sketch at [www.rexbrasher.org/life](http://www.rexbrasher.org/life), "Rex resolved to be better than Audubon."

He had already made up his mind at age 8 that he would paint every bird in North America, a goal that he reached by the end of his life. Brasher was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., but traveled all over the world, living what his website calls "a colorful life."

In 1911 he bought a 150-acre farm in Kent, Conn., and named it Chickadee Valley. Different histories of Brasher's life describe

*He had already made up his mind at age 8 that he would paint every bird in North America, a goal that he reached by the end of his life.*

several residences and it's not completely clear whether they're all the same property or not. But the Rex Brasher website says he had a 116 acre property in the hamlet of Amenia, N.Y., called Wassaic (there is a map of the property at the website); and a biography of the painter says he died at his home in Gaylordsville, which is a town on the southern end of Kent.

At any rate, from his home in the Tri-state region, Brasher contin-

ued to dedicate his life to painting every bird on the continent — and reached his goal in 1924, with 874 watercolors that met his exacting standards.

Not that anyone is keeping track, but Audubon only completed paintings of 489 species. And while Audubon painted birds that were "posed" (presumably post-mortem), Brasher painted his in the wild, using extensive notes about the birds and their habitats.

He also wrote text to

accompany his drawings. Hoping to gain a wider audience for his work, he published the text and watercolors in a 12-volume book called "Birds and Trees of North America."

Brasher sold the entire collection to the state of Connecticut in 1941, expecting that the state would build a museum to house and display his work. World War II put an end to those hopes; eventually the University of Connecticut took ownership of Brasher's work. It is

now stored at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center in Storrs; the entire collection is rarely seen.

The painter had two great-nieces, Melode (who died in 2019) and Deborah (who died in February 2021 at the age of 84). The sisters had lived at Chickadee Hill as young girls and again at the end of their lives, and they were founding members of the Rex Brasher Association.

The nonprofit is based in Kent, and last year began a task almost as epic as the actual painting of all those birds: Its members are digitizing every part of the 12-volume "Birds and Trees of North America." When it's completed, the pages will be available online. As one can imagine, this is expensive work. The association is seeking donations, which can be made at the website ([www.rexbrasher.org](http://www.rexbrasher.org)).

## TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Send items to [calendar@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:calendar@lakevillejournal.com). All entries can be found at [www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar](http://www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar).

### ART

**The Clark Art Museum**, 225 South St., Williamstown, Mass. [www.clarkart.edu](http://www.clarkart.edu)  
DRAWING CLOSER: SNOW DAY, Jan. 14, 11 a.m. to noon.

**Norman Rockwell Museum**, 9 Glendale Road, Stockbridge, Mass. [www.nrm.org](http://www.nrm.org)  
VIRTUAL PROGRAM – Martin Luther King Jr Day – Imprinted: Illustrating Race, Jan. 17, 1 to 2 p.m. (online).

### BOOKS

**Hotchkiss Library of Sharon**, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. [www.hotchkisslibrary.org](http://www.hotchkisslibrary.org)  
American History Book Club: A Passion for Nature: The Life of John Muir by Donald Worster, Jan. 19, 10 to 11 a.m. (online).

**The Institute for American Indian Studies Museum & Research Center**, 38 Curtis Road, Washington, Conn. [www.iaismuseum.org](http://www.iaismuseum.org)  
As They Speak: Native Voices in Today's Literature – Virtual Book Club, Jan. 26, 7 to 8 p.m. (online).

**Oblong Books & Music**, 26 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. [www.oblongbooks.com](http://www.oblongbooks.com)  
Oblong Online: Brett Bevell, HEALING RACISM WITHIN: A LIGHTWORKER'S GUIDE, Jan. 20, 7 p.m. (online).  
Movies

### KIDS

**Kent Memorial Library**, 32 N. Main St., Kent, Conn. [www.kentmemoriallibrary.org](http://www.kentmemoriallibrary.org)  
TAB & Book Club, Jan. 19, 12:30 p.m.

**Oblong Books & Music**, 26 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. [www.oblongbooks.com](http://www.oblongbooks.com)  
Virtual School Visit & Book Launch: Nancy F. Castaldo, WHEN THE WORLD RUNS DRY: Earth's Water in Crisis, Jan. 18, 9 a.m.

### MOVIES

**Gilson Cafe & Cinema**, 354 Main St., Winsted, Conn. [www.gilsoncafeandcinema.com](http://www.gilsoncafeandcinema.com)  
Spider-Man: No Way Home, playing through Jan. 15.

**The Moviehouse**, 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. [www.themoviehouse.net](http://www.themoviehouse.net)  
In Balanchine's Classroom, Jan. 16, 1 p.m.

### MUSIC

**The Clark Art Museum**, 225 South St., Williamstown, Mass. [www.clarkart.edu](http://www.clarkart.edu)  
I/O ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE, Jan. 13, 4 to 5 p.m.; I/O FEST FEATURING JACQUELINE KERROD, Jan. 14, 4 to 5 p.m.; I/O FEST FEATURING THE BLACKBOX ENSEMBLE, Jan. 15, 3 to 4 p.m.; I/O FEST 2022: THE MUSIC OF NOW, Jan. 16, 1 to 2 p.m. and 4 to 5 p.m.

**Close Encounters With Music**, Great Barrington, Mass. [www.cewm.org](http://www.cewm.org)  
Folk and Baroque Concert, Feb. 26, 6 to 7:45 p.m.

### TALKS

**The Cornwall Library**, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. [www.cornwalllibrary.org](http://www.cornwalllibrary.org)  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AND CONNECTICUT BLACK HISTORY WITH JEREMY BRECHER, Jan. 17, 4 to 5 p.m. (online).

**Norfolk Library**, 9 Greenwoods Road East, Norfolk, Conn. [www.norfolklibrary.org](http://www.norfolklibrary.org)  
Dianne Pierce: Thomas Jefferson and Slavery at Monticello, Jan. 13, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. (online).

### THEATER

**Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center**, 14 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass. [www.mahaiwe.org](http://www.mahaiwe.org)  
SCOTT EYERLY'S VIRTUAL MET OPERA LECTURE: VERDI'S RIGOLETTO, Jan. 27, 5:30 p.m. (online).

### ART: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

## A Show of Work by a Pioneer of Computer Art

Bill Gates famously was an early user of computer technology. He taught himself to program and went on to become one of the richest men in the world by creating Microsoft.

Mark Wilson took a different direction along the same path. He also taught himself to write computer software at a young age, and became a pioneer of digital art.

Wilson's work isn't really of the NFT variety that we hear so much about today.

His work is created by writing software that combines a creation of random patterns (the patterns he uses often look like a computer motherboard of tiny circuits) with his own tastes and judgment as an artist.

The images are printed on canvas using large-format archival ink jet printers.

A native of Oregon, Wilson has lived and worked for many years in West Cornwall, Conn. There is now a show of his work on display at the Cornwall Library, which opened Jan. 8 and remains up until Feb. 19.

The show is called "Mutable by Mark Wilson." The library hours, information on the exhibit, and COVID-19 protocols can be found online at <https://cornwalllibrary.org/art-exhibits>.

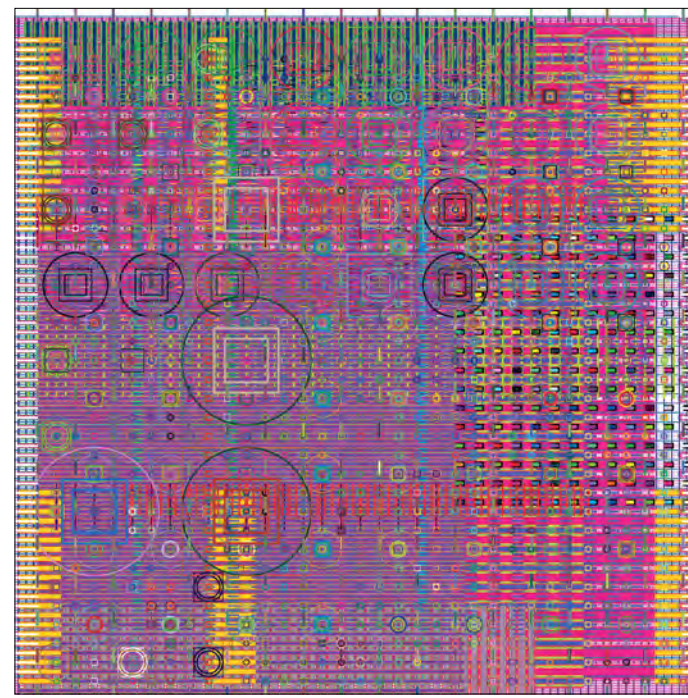


PHOTO COURTESY MARK WILSON

The ink-on-canvas work "m1174" by Mark Wilson is included in his exhibition at the Cornwall Library, "Mutable."

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## EDITORIAL

## Where will all our garbage go?

The trash disposal situation for Northwest Corner towns has only gotten more dire this year and the reasons for that are sadly outside the town leaders' control. As covered throughout the process in this newspaper, including last week in a "Looking back" article by Senior Reporter Patrick Sullivan, the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) in Hartford that has taken the region's solid waste for years will be shut down in July 2022.

It's hard to swallow when the towns here have put so much money and energy into their trash and recycling facilities, especially the Salisbury-Sharon Transfer Station that was finally completed and opened in October 2020 after 25 years of disputes and controversy complicated the process. Residents in the Northwest Corner have generally been highly committed to recycling responsibly. Towns here have won awards for their approaches to recycling, but individual municipalities, 49 of which are served by the MIRA facility, can only affect the beginning of the process. Without a good ending to remediating trash and recycling, the efforts at the beginning of the chain have little or no effect.

The state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) rejected the \$330 million proposal to redevelop the facility, disappointingly. What better investment in the state's longterm health than finding a way to remediate its solid waste within its borders? The alternative, which has been offered by the state as the only option right now, has been adopted by all the Northwest Corner towns except Falls Village, Cornwall and Sharon.

The alternative is that our solid waste will be shipped out of state and likely burned at its final destination. So the negative effects for the environment are multifold: the transportation of the stuff will mean adding burned fuel to the atmosphere, the garbage that is burned or perhaps buried in its new locale will only cause longterm problems for that location.

While the DEEP is trying to come up with some other solution as a real plan, as Sullivan pointed out in his article last week, if there is no legislative mandate that requires the state to take care of its own solid waste, it becomes difficult or impossible to find the money to accomplish it. This is a plea to our legislators to act on this critical need, and pass laws that can create a path for funding to redevelop or build facilities that will do what the MIRA facility did: burning solid waste and converting it to electricity.

Otherwise, what happens when the next facility fails? There are four more in the state that are at full capacity, never a recipe for longterm viability without serious maintenance and restoration as necessary. Does Connecticut want to become a state that depends on the willingness of other states to take all of its garbage? That would be indefensible and wrong.

## Welcome to a new era for The Lakeville Journal

This week marks a new beginning for The Lakeville Journal, with one of its longest-term editors in its history stepping back from editing its news pages. (See article, front page.) Executive Editor Cynthia Hochswender has edited The Lakeville Journal since 2005 with professionalism, aplomb and style that is visible on every page and in every story. She has continued writing many of the articles that appeared on these pages, and edited those that were written by other reporters and correspondents.

Now, she will act as editor of the Compass arts and entertainment weekly publication, as well as some special sections over the course of the year. For that, the company is grateful and glad.

Hochswender's influence on the coverage presented to our readers since 2005, and really since 1999 when she came on as a Lakeville Journal reporter, cannot be overestimated. Her enthusiasm and curiosity about the region covered by this newspaper has never waned in all that time, an achievement few could match. Her leadership through tough financial times and the worldwide pandemic, most recently, affected the ability of this publication to survive and now, to thrive. Her tenure brings to mind that of the late editor Ann Hoskins, who took on The Lakeville Journal while she and her husband, Stewart, owned the paper during the 1940s and 1950s. Hochswender leaves The Lakeville Journal strong and vibrant for the next editor. For that, she has the company's profound gratitude and awe.

The reins are being handed by Hochswender to her colleague since 2018, Debra Aleksinas, as described in this week's front page article. This transition will be made smoother because Aleksinas understands the coverage and the area, and has unwavering journalistic instincts. Hochswender and the Journal believe strongly Aleksinas is the best person to continue the tradition of responsible and relevant local community journalism for which The Lakeville Journal is known and valued.

Thank you to Cynthia for her monumental contributions to this community publication over so many years. And welcome to Debra with best wishes for success and the hope that she will enjoy her work as much as Hochswender has, and we all do every week.

Keep your attention on Compass to keep track of Cynthia's latest interests, and follow the news pages to see how Aleksinas and her reporters continue the legacy.



PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

## January ice

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Parking is being seriously discussed

On behalf of the Salisbury Planning and Zoning Commission, I am responding to the editorial in last week's Lakeville Journal implying that the Commission created a problem "now in need of immediate attention" by failing to consider parking in our approval of a restaurant in the old firehouse. The writer makes comparisons between our parking deliberations at Holley Block and the firehouse, stating that there was only "peripheral discussion [of parking] and no solution defined" in reviewing the restaurant.

However, on page A4 of the same issue of the LJ, Patrick Sullivan reported on the conversion of the firehouse to restaurant use stating that "much of the discussion during the public hearing and commission deliberations centered on parking." This was

not a "peripheral discussion," but rather a thoughtful deliberation focused principally on parking that spanned multiple hearings.

The editorial concludes that "now is the time to solve parking in Lakeville." Those who have been following the work of the Commission know we have been discussing solutions to this problem at public meetings since early 2021. We have defined the need for a comprehensive study and action plan to address not only parking, but traffic patterns, as well as pedestrian access (walk-ability) and safety in downtown Lakeville. It has taken time to identify both funding sources and potential consultants, and to get buy-in from various stakeholders for the expansive scope of this study.

There are many opportunities to creatively increase park-

ing in Lakeville and to address traffic circulation, while simultaneously improving efficiency and safety (including eliminating recurrent damage caused by delivery trucks clipping the historical CNE station). But as important as vehicular parking and circulation is to the vitality of Lakeville, is the urgent need to address pedestrian access and safety.

Our goal is to have a draft RFP (Request for Proposals) completed and presented to the entire Commission for discussion at our Jan. 18 meeting. Once the RFP has been approved and finalized it will be sent out to a number of consulting firms that have expertise in these planning issues.

**Michael W. Klemens, PhD**  
Chairman, Salisbury Planning and Zoning Commission  
Salisbury

## Think of those around you: get the job

It is often expedient to blame the government for everything that's wrong at any given moment, with the guy in the White House offering the most convenient target.

Having just visited the U.K., I thought I should share my experience there so that we can better understand what is going on elsewhere.

The Conservative government in the U.K. is considered to be failing miserably. Citizens are complaining about runaway inflation, restaurants unable to find staff and a lack of

truck drivers has resulted in a supply chain breakdown. Heated discussions about vaccines, lockdowns and a crippled healthcare system are topics frequently discussed. (Apparently, our very own United Healthcare is trying to destroy the NHS and take over healthcare in Britain.) Disastrous for the British.

So whether a Democratic or Conservative government is in charge doesn't change who the real culprit is. It's COVID-19. It is wreaking havoc everywhere it goes, and that is ev-

erywhere.

Please stop pointing fingers at people who are trying to help and are doing what's necessary to the best of their ability. We will never rid ourselves of this demon virus and its variants until everyone gets vaccinated.

Be a responsible citizen of this world and do your part. Get the job!

In the meantime, wear your mask and social distance. Wearing a mask is not a difficult task.

**Sherie Berk**  
Sharon

## Appreciation for our local heroes

Huge kudos and a low bow (rhymes with "how," not "know") of gratitude to the ladies and gentlemen of the Sharon Volunteer Fire Department.

Once again, they have shown the depth of their commitment to serving our town. On Saturday, Jan. 8, they stood out in 9-degree weather to hand out free COVID at-home tests — AND N95 masks.

They gave the citizens the

right to sit in their warm cars and drive through while the volunteers froze their joints walking around making sure everything was well-organized and efficient. At precisely the announced time, they started moving cars through and handing out these vital supplies with smiles and good cheer (while I feel sure their bones were begging them to get inside).

It's just another example of

the outstanding service these local heroes perform for our community. We all owe them a huge debt of gratitude.

**Nat Benchley**  
Sharon

*More letters next page.*

*Continued next page*

## THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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## Mission Statement

The Lakeville Journal Company, Publishers of  
**The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News**  
Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly,  
and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.

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# The Northwest Corner's Ice Age: 'Brutal hard work'

At the turn of the other century, when our nation's second-largest export was ice, behind cotton, our area was (literally) on the cutting edge of the industry, filling boxcars with ice bound for New York City and points south as far as Cuba.

Ice-harvesting boomed here from the mid-1800s until the 1930s, when the discovery of Freon made refrigerators commonplace. Before refrigeration, iceboxes kept food fresh and (sort of) cold as long as icemen came once a week to replenish "cakes" harvested from frozen lakes and stored in ice houses until needed.

"Icing was brutal, brutal hard work done under the worst possible weather conditions," recalled Paul Rebillard in 1987 for the Salisbury Association's Oral History Project. Not only was icing difficult, it was perilous. Nearly everyone on the crew "went in" at some time. Luckily, the day Paul fell in, "I had so many clothes on, I came up like a cork." Dangerous as it was, the industry provided welcome employment to farmers and others without winter work.

Think you'd be up to the job? Pick a nice, cold day and go down to the lake with your ice auger. You know what that is, it looks like a giant corkscrew with a wood handle. You better be wearing mittens, not gloves, or Paul warned you'll get frostbite. He advised wearing felt socks inside rubber boots. (LL Bean isn't a thing yet.) Strap on crampons (serrated blades that give your boots traction) so you won't slip as you drill a hole in the ice with your auger.

Drop your ice ruler into the hole. If the ice measures twelve inches, it's time to yoke up your horse to the scraper. The best ice is frozen water with no snow mixed in. "A block so

clean you can read a newspaper through it," overpromises your competitor. Start scraping.

Once you've cleared a "field", switch out the scraper for a scorer. Mark out blocks in two foot squares, creating a checkerboard pattern. This might be a good time to mention that your horse needs crampons, too. Be careful not to score too deep or your horse will fall through. Now, pick up your chisel.

"You chisel out the first block at the very center of your field," said Jim Lamson, who worked for ten cents

an hour harvesting Riga Lake. Jim was the voice of the Holley-Williams House Museum's ice house for years, where his recorded memories introduced visitors like my daughters to a time when ice cream couldn't be had every day.

Now, pick up your saw. Not a bendy little wood saw. You need a heavy ice saw, six feet long, teeth as big as a shark's to get through twelve or more inches of ice. (Like the antique ice saw rescued from the bottom of Lake Wononscopomuc by Don Mayland, our ice marshal.)

Once the first block is out, a channel starts and you can float blocks to shore instead of carrying them. Good, because ice blocks weigh about 100 lbs. each. Load up your sled, then drive to the ice house. Stack neatly, leaving space at the top for cold storage: apples, butter, slabs of meat. Don't forget to pack sawdust around the sides, for insulation, so your blocks won't melt by the fourth of July.

After all this, how much can you charge for your ice?

A Lakeville bill of sale for

February 1902 itemized \$4.79 for 479 cakes, \$6.50 for carting. But the price of ice was seasonal. It skyrocketed in summer when icemen made house calls, delivering blocks one by one as requested by cards left in porch windows. The idea that icemen "raked it in" explains lyrics of an 1899 hit song: I thought it was the house of a millionaire, but he told me the Iceman resided there.

Are any ice houses still standing? The Holley-Williams House is now privately owned, but its ice house is protected by a Historic Preservation Easement through the Salisbury Association and Historic New England.

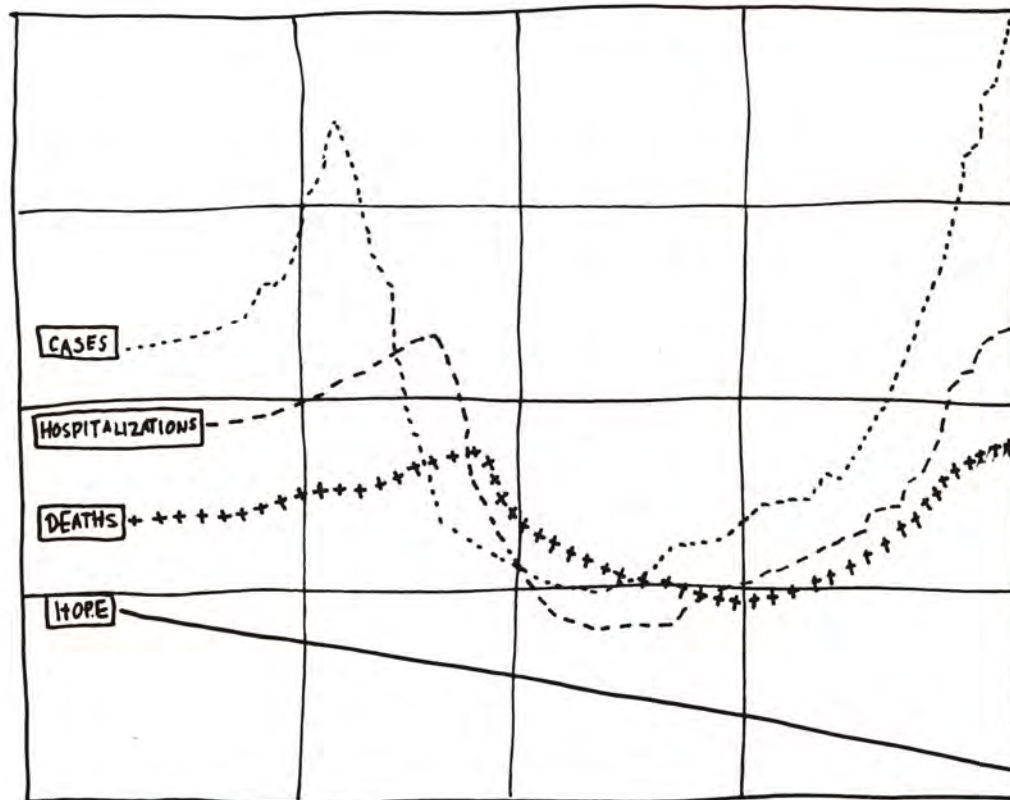
In Winchester, an ice house built in the 1840s is a two-bedroom VRBO rental. In Sharon, The Icehouse Project Space showcases contemporary art projects in an 18th-century ice house. At the Sharon Audubon Center, the Ford family's former ice house is a sugar house where maple syrup is made.

But perhaps the most unique use of a former ice house is in Winsted where Stew Jones converted a commercial ice house on Highland Lake to a site for the restoration of antique Jaguar cars.

*Helen Klein Ross lives in Lakeville and is the author of "The Latecomers," a novel set in ice-cutting days. Research for this column included kind input from Lou Bucceri, Tom Callahan, Katherine Chilcoat, Eileen Fielding, Stew Jones, Don Mayland, Jean McMillen and members of Northwest Corner Chatter and Salisbury, Connecticut Facebook pages. Any errors are her own.*

## HIDDEN HISTORIES

HELEN KLEIN ROSS



## Your ideas wanted!

# Some thinking on the use of a historic building in Lakeville

This is the first of what I hope will be an occasional series of columns that will offer some of my ideas for our future in Northwest Connecticut and solicit your ideas on those subjects.

So many things are changing in our area, and so rapidly, that for the area to remain vital, viable, sustaining of its population, and inviting for newcomers, we need to take charge of change rather than to let it happen unguided. And so the ideas put forward in these columns — by you as well as by me — will need to range over concerns economic, social, environmental, and just plain neighborly.

Our area's wonderful, varied natural surroundings, good weather, vibrant history, friendly small towns, and available housing provide as terrific a place to live and work in as can be found anywhere. I certainly think so and I believe that you do too, else you would not be here. That goes for those born and raised here, and for the rest of us who, like me, came here as adults and have adopted the area (and have let it adopt us).

To start off, then, I'd like to suggest doing something with the Lakeville Railroad Station, a town of Salisbury property. Empty and unused for some years, I think it deserves to be used as the base of some enterprise, preferably a non-profit, whose objectives are commensurate with its being owned by the town, and with attempts to meet the area's current and future needs.

A little background on the station. Built in 1871, it was in use as a railroad depot through the 1920s and 1930s. The last freight trains came through in 1938. After that it was in private hands, until 1951, when it was deeded to the town. It is a part of the Lakeville Historic

District, which comprises more than twenty buildings, parks, and waterways. Its last memorable use was as headquarters for the local radio station. Now opposite three restaurants, and with adequate parking slots nearby, it is in a desirable location.

An inquiry to Town Hall revealed that the train station is considered to be in limbo just now, because so are the major buildings of the Historic District, the former Holley Knife Factory and the proposed Holley Block of apartments — the first, because of environmental problems that have deterred buyers, and the second, because of on-going litigation over the proposed new building on the property. The current thinking at Town Hall, evidently, is that nothing can be done with the station until the fate of the larger buildings is settled.

But the train station's being in limbo need not prevent us from thinking about what it might be in the future. Indeed, it gives us more time to chew it over.

My idea is to have the station become the site of a small-business incubator that would provide at subsidized costs the sort of facilities that will help nascent enterprises grow, particularly digital enterprises that remotely service customers and clients. There are perhaps dozens of local people currently operating such businesses from their spare bedrooms, or thinking about doing so, and there are even more potential newcomers for whom the existence of such an incubator would provide additional incentive to

relocate to the area.

I envision the office occupants sharing costs that might otherwise be too high for individual fledgling businesses, such as rent, electricity, wifi connection, heating, and even insurance. Keeping overhead low during their start-up phases should help them stabilize and grow.

Since the train station is town-owned and town-maintained, the rent to the non-profit's tenants could be minimal,

and further subsidized by their being able to take advantage of the low, bulk prices that the town pays for fuel, electricity, and insurance. Eventually, these nascent businesses will be viable enough to rent commercial space, and we can hope that by then they will have become as much enamored of the area as we are, and will locate nearby.

I could go into greater detail about such a business incubator — which I deem necessary, whether sited in the train station or elsewhere — but I am eager to read your alternate notions for the use of this community asset, the Lakeville Train Station. Let's get the conversation going!

Please email me at shachtmantom@gmail.com, or snail-mail me at PO Box 630, Salisbury CT 06068. All replies will be kept confidential, and will not be printed in future columns without your permission.

*Tom Shachtman is the author of more than a dozen American and world histories and of documentaries seen on all the major networks. He lives in Salisbury.*

## IDEAS FOR US

TOM SHACHTMAN

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

*Continued from previous page*

placed the cost of these devices at \$39,000.

Boy Scouts of Troop 33 went on a hike and camp out on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 8 and 9, to Meeker Town on Canaan Mountain. About 15 boys went along with Scoutmaster Richard Byrne and his assistants Duncan Denny, Bob Cook and Dale Merrill. This has been the largest turnout for a camp out that the scouts have had.

Jack Phelps, 15, of East Canaan, took second place Saturday in the Junior A class of the Torger Tokle ski jump tournament at Bear Mountain, N.Y. He represented the Salisbury Winter Sports Association.

**25 years ago — January 1997**

CORNWALL — Harriet Lydia Clark, teacher, legislator and lifelong member of the Cornwall community, died Jan. 7 at the Sharon Health Care Center. She was 102 years old.

LAKEVILLE — Local physician Dr. Peter Gott, a nationally syndicated columnist featured in The Lakeville Journal, was the subject of an acrostic puzzle in The New York Times Sunday magazine last weekend. The acrostic by Thomas H. Middleton in the Jan. 5 edition of the widely-circulated magazine challenged readers to solve a word puzzle that made reference to Dr. Gott and his 1986 book "No House Calls." The gist of the puzzle was that physicians' waiting rooms are aptly named because patients wait at their own expense. "I'm honored to be the subject of a New York Times acrostic again," Dr. Gott said Tuesday. "I always thought of myself as a puzzle anyway." The Lakeville physician was previously featured in a New York Times acrostic in 1988. His book is now out of print.

In an area where businesses tend to come and go, Community Lumber and Hardware has been around a long, long time. This week, it lost its president with the death of Michael Turnure, who had been at the helm for the past 25 years.

SHARON — For the last 13 years, the Sharon Volunteer Fire Department has been raising money for needy families with Fred Amerighi's famous spaghetti suppers. Mr. Amerighi passed away last year, but the tradition continues as the volunteers prepare for another fund-raising dinner Jan. 18 at the Sharon Center School. And as firefighter George Holst-Grubbe said this week, "Fred's spirit will be in the sauce."

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The Empty Chair

The empty chair  
To Lee Ann, Pat, Ron and Jim,  
Will never seem the same.  
For this is where  
Elliot would sit  
And join in banter game.  
Elizabeth, Arthur John,  
Oogie and all  
Wan in smile to dampened stare  
Recall ...  
As eyes fall  
Upon the empty chair.

Patricia Moore

### Likes the amount of news, but not the grammar

Congratulations to your staff. The Jan. 6 edition actually contained lots of news. Job well done. One writer did misuse "us" instead of "we" but then good grammar is kind of out of vogue.

Craig E. Toensing

Falls Village

*More letters previous page.*

**My idea is to have the station become the site of a small-business incubator that would provide at subsidized costs the sort of facilities that will help nascent enterprises grow, particularly digital enterprises that remotely service customers and clients.**

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Recently the question has come up in ongoing real estate deals of how to handle the issue of buried oil tanks. Many of these tanks have been decommissioned or removed in accordance with the earlier guidelines. For a buyer, the best practice is to insist on documented soil tests confirming that the site is clean and has no contamination. Otherwise the risk shifts to the buyer and the issue will come up again when it is their turn to sell the property. It is important to know that the owner of the residential property is solely responsible for the costs of any cleanups required. For more information, please visit this page at CTDEEP: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Underground-Storage-Tanks/UST-Clean-Up/UST-Clean-Up>.



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Do you have a family member or friend in the military who would be interested in the news from home?

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