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# The Lakeville Journal

TriCornerNews.com

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



'tis the season

## Omicron now in Connecticut; towns offer vax clinics

Gov. Ned Lamont announced on Saturday, Dec. 4, that a Connecticut resident has tested positive for the highly contagious coronavirus omicron variant. "The case involves a man in his 60s from Hartford County who developed mild symptoms on Nov. 27," the governor said in a press release sent out on Dec. 4 around 9 p.m. "An at-home COVID-19 test was positive on Nov. 29 and a subsequent molecular test was positive on Dec. 1." It is believed that the man was infected by a family member who had gone to the Anime NYC convention in New York City at the Jacob Javits Center between Nov. 17 and 22. "That family member devel-

oped mild symptoms on Nov. 21, and on Nov. 23 took an at-home COVID-19 test that delivered a positive result. The family member's symptoms have resolved. COVID-19 testing on additional family members is pending." Lamont said that "the affected individual and their family member are fully vaccinated," but he stressed that vaccinations and booster shots remain the best way to protect against death and hospitalization because of a coronavirus infection. Vaccinations and booster shots are available at most pharmacies and some grocery store chains in the region. Information on clinics can be found at [www.portal.ct.gov](http://www.portal.ct.gov).

PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN AND PATRICK L. SULLIVAN  
The Kent School Choir serenaded Santa as the tree was lit on the Kent Green Dec. 4, above. Salisbury Ambulance volunteer Mike Brenner shared a laugh with Santa in Lakeville that afternoon. More photos, Pages A3 and A5.

See OMICRON, Page A6



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER  
Lakeville Journal Co. Production Coordinator James Clark has been promoted to Chief Operating Officer.

## Clark now Chief Operating Officer at Lakeville Journal Company

James H. Clark of Salisbury, who began working at The Lakeville Journal in August of 2002, has been promoted to the position of Chief Operating Officer. Clark has served the company in multiple capacities over the years, always with the highest standard of work ethic and skill. Clark began as a graphic artist in 2002, then was promoted to Composing Manager in 2005. He advanced to Production Coordinator in 2006, and took on the task of keeping the flow of all the work done at The Lakeville Journal efficient, seamless and on time. He saw the tools of the trade advance over the course of his career from paper paste-up on drafting boards to completely digitized systems in all departments at the company. He oversaw the digital transition in those departments due to his expertise in computers and software, but also due to his patience in working tirelessly to have those with less understanding than he of digital change master the new systems. Clark will continue to oversee the operations of the company in his new role, and to use creativity to strategize new systems as the company moves into its next phase as a nonprofit entity. He has overseen the upgrades to [www.tricornernews.com](http://www.tricornernews.com) and will continue to be part of the process as the newspapers' website is modified and improved over time. Lakeville Journal Foundation CEO and Publisher

See CLARK, Page A6

## Nuvance defends hiring efforts, decision to close labor & delivery

By Cynthia Hochswender  
SHARON — Nuvance administrators responded to questions on staffing and hiring practices at its three Connecticut hospitals — with special emphasis on the labor and delivery unit. The state Office of Health Strategy contacted Nuvance at the end of October about allegations that the nonprofit hospital group, owner of Sharon Hospital, has not lived up to promises made to the state in 2019. OHS sent six questions to Nuvance about its hospitals in Norwalk, Danbury and Sharon. The responses were due on Nov. 22. Nuvance responded on that date with a 17-page document in which it defended its hiring and recruitment practices; and justified its decision to close the labor and delivery unit in Sharon. About its recruitment efforts at all three hospitals, Nuvance Vice President for Strategic Planning and Business Development Sally Herlihy gives a detailed description of "competitive compensation and comprehensive benefits" offered to entice medical staff; retention bonuses and relocation bonuses; and a \$2,500 referral fee for anyone who recruits "an eligible full-time registered nurse." Two new nurse practitioners in Sharon. Nonetheless, Herlihy says, "There are currently over 1,600 open positions across the Nuvance Health system, of which approximately two-thirds are clinical positions. These include openings at Danbury Hospital, Norwalk Hospital, and Sharon Hospital for maternity and obstetrical services, medical/surgical units, intensive care units, and surgical services staff." The "competitive compensation and comprehensive benefits" have attracted a total of 26 new primary care clinicians across the Nuvance system, Herlihy says. That includes four physicians and one nurse practitioner in the Norwalk Hospital service area and five physicians and four nurse practitioners in the Danbury Hospital service area. In the Sharon Hospital service area, Herlihy says, "two new primary care nurse practitioners will be joining the Millerton and Sharon offices." Sharon also now has a mobile health van in its parking lot two days a week, a collaboration with the Community Health & Wellness Center in Torrington. Herlihy says that, "As of September 2021, Sharon Hospital had a total of 244 physicians and advanced practice providers on its medical staff, while Norwalk Hospital had

## HVRHS football team makes it to state tourney

By Patrick L. Sullivan  
FALLS VILLAGE — The Housatonic Valley Regional High School/Gilbert School/Northwestern co-op football team made the Class M state tournament after posting a 6-2 regular season record, Athletic Director Anne MacNeil reported to the Region One Board of Education on Monday, Dec. 6. The football team, ranked number 8 in Class M, fell to top-ranked Killingly, 49-14, on Tuesday, Nov. 30. MacNeil noted the football team had two games postponed and then canceled due to COVID-19 problems. There are five Housatonic students on the team.

## HVA steps up to the challenge of protecting area rivers

By Debra A. Aleksinas  
CORNWALL — The Cornwall Bridge-based Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) addressed two urgent but very different concerns relating to the Housatonic River and the 2,000-square-mile, Tri-state Housatonic River valley. HVA held its 80th annual meeting on Friday, Dec. 3, attracting about 75 participants for the Zoom presentation. HVA Board President Tony Zunino applauded HVA Executive Director Lynn Werner and Tim Abbott, HVA's Regional Conservation and Greenprint Director, and the HVA staff for keeping the nonprofit organization going through the challenges of the past year. Werner gave an update on the association's land and water conservation work aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change, including its goal to conserve hundreds of stream miles and 50,000 acres of core, connected forest across the river valley by 2040. And she talked about what has been a concern in all area towns that have river frontage this year: The "huge uptick" in recreational visitors to the

See HVA, Page A6

See NUVANCE, Page A6



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# Helping everyone be homeful for the holidays

## In The Journal this week

OUR TOWNS ..... A3-5, B5 OPINION..... B3  
 OBITUARIES ..... A4 VIEWPOINT..... B4  
 COMPASS..... B1-2 CLASSIFIEDS..... B5-6

### Three-day forecast

Friday..... Cloudy high 39°/low 22°  
 Saturday..... Rain, 52°/36°  
 Sunday..... Rain, 52°/30°

## 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.

### Disorderly conduct

On Nov. 27 Adam Fox, 46, of Montpelier, Vt., turned himself in on an active warrant. Fox was charged with disorderly conduct based on an incident that occurred on Dec. 26, 2020, at a residence on Sharon Mountain Road in Sharon. He was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on Nov. 29.

### Struck a utility pole

On Nov. 28 at approximately 10:30 a.m. on Route 7 in Falls Village a 2016 Jeep Patriot driven by John Charles McKay, 55, of North Canaan exited the roadway and struck an Eversource utility pole. At the time of the accident the roadways were wet with current snowfall. McKay sustained a laceration to his left hand and right ear. He was issued a written warning for failure to maintain the proper lane and traveling too fast for the conditions.

### Disorderly conduct

On Dec. 1 at approximately 6:30 p.m. Troop B responded to an active disturbance at a residence on East Street in Sharon. Following an investigation, Cameron Majette, 19, of Sharon was charged with disorderly conduct and criminal mischief in the second degree. He was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on that same day.

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).

## FAMILY & FRIENDS

### Accreditation for Cornwall Conservation Trust

CORNWALL — The Cornwall Conservation Trust (CCT) announced it has renewed its land trust accreditation.

"Renewing our accreditation shows CCT's ongoing commitment to permanent land conservation in Cornwall," said Barton Jones, CCT president. "We are a stronger organization than ever for having gone through the rigorous accreditation renewal process. Our strength means special places, such as Cornwall, will be protected forever, making Cornwall an even greater place for us and our children."

CCT is one of 1,363 land trusts across the United States, according to the Land Trust Alliance's most recent National Land Trust Census.

In partnership with town, state and conservation agencies CCT aims to protect open space lands and manage that land in a way that benefits the community. For information, go to [www.cornwallconservationtrust.org](http://www.cornwallconservationtrust.org).

### Grant to help pay for winter gear

NORTH CANAAN — The Canaan Child Care Center has been chosen to receive one of the Year-End Critical Needs grants by the Directors of the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation. They are dedicated to helping area residents and families with limited financial means. The Canaan Child Care Center will receive \$2,500 to purchase coats, boots, snow pants and mittens

for children of the families who attend the center.

The Year-End Critical Needs grant is made possible by the Marion Wm. and Alice Edwards Fund and the Draper Foundation Fund. Donors Marion Wm. and Alice Edwards and Jim and Shirley Draper all expressed a strong desire to assist those facing difficult and challenging economic circumstances.



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

State Rep. Maria Horn, center, took part in a Paddington Bear-themed fundraiser for the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness. At right of Horn are Hotchkiss Library of Sharon's Sam Saliter and William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty agent Karen Grimaldi. To her left: Scoville Library's Kendra Percy and Sotheby's agents Lori Cantele and Pat Thurman.

SALISBURY — State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) came to an event to raise funds and awareness of homelessness in Connecticut at The White Hart inn in Salisbury on Sunday, Dec. 4. Paddington Bear was the mascot, reminding all of the importance of having a home, especially during the holiday season. Childrens librarians Kendra Percy and Samantha Saliter read aloud the first book in the Paddington Bear series to youngsters in the ballroom at the inn. The event was organized by the William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty office in Salisbury. Donations to help keep families in their homes and out of shelters can be brought to the Sotheby's office on Main Street; or look for the wreaths in public libraries in the Northwest Corner with hang tags that have a red "flow code" — scan the circle with a smart phone to make a donation to the be homeful for the holidays statewide project to raise money for the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness.

— Cynthia Hochswender

## An artists' eye view of the 12 Days of Christmas

CORNWALL — It takes a village to create artwork for each of the 12 days of Christmas — and Cornwall is just the right village, with its abundance of artistic talent.

Organizer Bianka Griggs from the Wish House shared some history of the traditional holiday song, which she says first appeared in print in 1780. The lyrics and melody that we are most familiar with today were created and published by Frederic Austin in 1909, she

says.

The lyrics will come to life on Saturday, Dec. 11, in shop windows in West Cornwall and will remain on display until Jan. 2.

There will be an opening celebration Dec. 11 from 4 to 6 p.m.

A map of the artists and their creations (described as a walking tour of an outdoor art gallery) can be found online at <https://cornwallct.org/event/west-cornwalls-12-days-of-christmas-opening-night>.

of-christmas-opening-night.

Maps and sticker cards and prizes for visiting all the displays can be collected at The

Wish House, Covered Bridge

Electric Bike and Three Guys Ski and Ride.

— Cynthia Hochswender

### SWSA pot pie dinner on Dec. 14

SALISBURY — The White Hart Inn Pot Pie Dinner to Go will be held Tuesday, Dec. 14, at Provisions. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Salisbury Winter Sports Association (SWSA).

The \$25 dinner includes a chicken pot pie, mashed potatoes and a mince pie for dessert.

Because of the pandemic, the popular annual dine-in holiday dinner has adopted a takeout format.

To reserve a pot pie dinner

call Provisions at 860-435-0030 (the dinners have always sold out in past years so pre-ordering is advised).

Dinner pickup will be from 5 to 7 p.m. at Provisions. To retrieve your dinner either call from the parking lot for curbside pick-up or come into

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### Vigil in honor of lives lost

SALISBURY — The Sandy Hook Vigil to remember those who died on Dec. 14, 2012, and all victims of gun violence will be held this year on Tuesday, Dec. 14, 5 to 6 p.m. in front of The White Hart.

Participants are asked to bring a candle (real or battery-operated).

## Support Local Journalism In Your Community

Dear reader,

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.

*Noreen Doyle*

Noreen Doyle, Chair

*Janet Manko*

Janet Manko, CEO, executive director

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# Our Towns

## Warm hearts and cold hands at Sharon holiday tree lighting

By Hunter O. Lyle

SHARON — The sounds of excited chatter wafted through the air as roughly 350 spectators gathered around the town Green for the Sharon Holiday Celebration. Singing Christmas carols, their anticipation was finally satisfied when the evergreen before them came alive with an array of colorful and festive lights.

While the Saturday, Dec. 4, celebration culminated with the tree lighting, which happened around 5:30 p.m., people started to arrive about an hour and a half earlier. Many of them circled the Green, looking at the 1,400 luminaria — white bags with lights inside that serve to memorialize friends and loved ones who have died.

There has also been a menorah on the Green for observances of Hanukkah, which ended Dec. 6.

For children, Santa Claus was available for visits outside the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon (which is still closed for planned renovations).

The Salisbury Band's Christmas Brass and Hot Chocolate Society began playing at 5 p.m., leading the crowd through classic holiday songs. Right before the playing of "O Christmas Tree," the lights were turned on.

After a few more songs from the band, spectators were encouraged to visit the Sharon Historical Society for cider, hot chocolate, cookies and other refreshments.



PHOTOS BY HUNTER O. LYLE

An unusually large crowd attended the Sharon tree lighting. The Salisbury Band's Christmas Brass and Hot Chocolate Society accompanied the carolers.



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Fire companies from Lakeville, Falls Village and Millerton held a small-scale parade of lights at Noble Horizons Thursday evening, Dec. 2.

## New holiday traditions for Lakeville at firehouse, Noble

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE — This year there was no Parade of Lights through Salisbury and no lighting of the tree on the Green (with the singing of holiday carols).

So the Ladies Auxiliary of the Lakeville Hose Company organized a full day of events at the firehouse on Saturday, Dec. 4, with a vendor fair that began at 11 a.m., and a visit with Santa that began in the middle of the

afternoon.

There were also games for children. At dusk, a holiday tree at the firehouse was lit up.

There was also a small-scale Parade of Lights at Noble Horizons on Thursday evening, Dec. 2.

On Saturday, Dec. 4, the Lakeville Hose Company also hosted the Salisbury Winter Sports Association Ski Swap, with a long line outside the building before the sale began.



Young anglers "fished" at the firehouse in Lakeville on Saturday, Dec. 4, while waiting for Santa Claus to arrive.

## Falls Village still remains uncertain on MIRA plan

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — At the regular monthly meeting on Monday, Nov. 8, of the Board of Selectmen, First Selectman Henry Todd told the selectmen that they had to decide — soon — whether or not to commit to a five-year deal with the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) to continue to take the town's municipal solid waste.

Todd explained that the waste-to-energy plant in Hartford is closing July 1, 2022, and the waste will be shipped out of state.

The cost of disposing of trash is expected to significantly increase.

The current MIRA contract contains an opt-out clause. Todd said the town will have to waive that in order to get a "steady price" over the five

years of the new contract.

The selectmen have to decide by December, he said.

Marlowe suggested that the board look for other options that can be discussed at the December selectmen's meeting.

The selectmen agreed to recommend to the Board of Finance that \$1,000 be spent on a video camera that will enable board and commission meetings to be streamed and recorded.

The board appointed Johanna Mann as interim secretary for the selectmen and finance boards. The job has been posted on the town website.

The selectmen discussed parking issues in town. Selectman Dave Barger said the big question is what to do with the paved area next to the old firehouse on Railroad Street.

"That will hinge on what we do with the old firehouse," he

commented.

The selectmen kicked around a few ideas and decided to table the discussion pending input from Tim Downs, the town crew chief.

Downs was also appointed tree warden, having acquired the necessary certification.

At the Board of Finance meeting, Dick Heinz was re-elected chair. He thanked the board but warned he did not intend to retain the position for the entirety of his term.

Todd also told the board he thinks it would likely be a waste of time and money to try and collect \$750 in legal fees that were spent preparing a response to what turned out to be a phony Freedom of Information Act action.

Marlowe asked that the selectmen delay a final decision until they have an opinion from town attorney Chip Roraback.

## SVNA food drive

SALISBURY — Visiting Nurse and Hospice of Litchfield County is accepting non-perishable food items through Saturday, Dec. 20, at the Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association at 30A Salmon Kill Road from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information call 860-397-9480 or go to www.vnhlc.org



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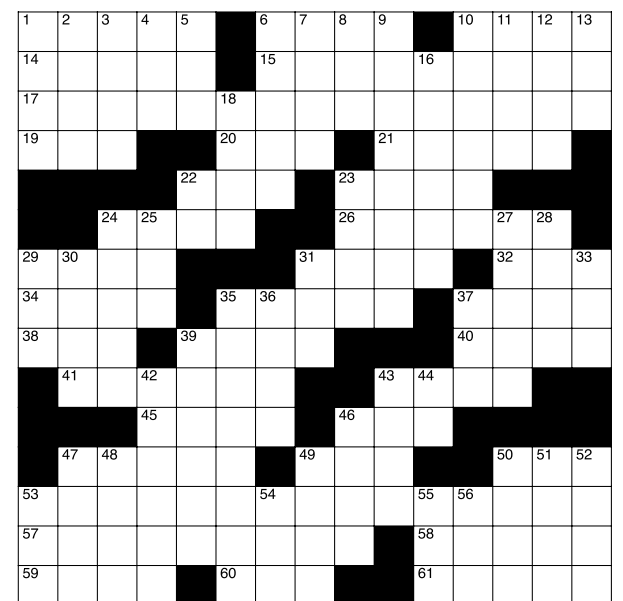
## Brain Teasers

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Polish city
6. Very eager
10. Identifies a specific person or thing
14. Tennis great Naomi
15. One concerned by professional advancement
17. PGA Championship reward
19. A fashionable hotel
20. Norse mythology afterlife location
21. Stood up
22. Car mechanics group
23. Weather forecasters use it (abbr.)
24. Broken branch
26. Astronomy unit
29. East Asian nursemaid
31. "Airplane!" actor
32. Exclamation that denotes disgust
34. "Batman" villain
35. Downfalls
37. Philippine province
38. Once-vital TV part
39. Valley
40. Tax
41. Classic Scorsese film
43. Subway dwellers
45. Book part
46. Taxi
47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
49. Swiss river
50. Founder of Babism
53. Hair surgery
57. Withdrawal from a larger entity
58. Lot's father
59. Greek war god
60. 2,000 lbs.
61. Lemur

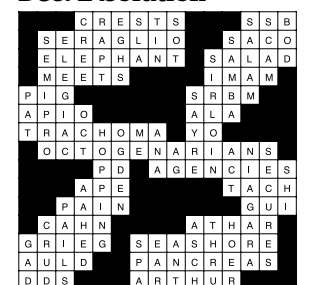
### CLUES DOWN

1. Quarrels
2. Right away
3. Comedian Carvey
4. Egyptian unit of weight
5. A Brit's mother
6. Tropical tree
7. One who speaks Gaelic
8. NHL legend Bobby
9. Vacation spots
10. Military personnel
11. Shakira's don't lie
12. Wimbledon champ
13. Teletypewriter
16. Mistakes
18. Whale ship captain
22. Thus
23. From end to end
24. Kids love him

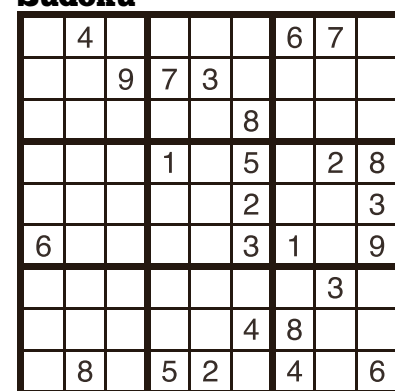


25. One and only
27. Fencing swords
28. Taxis
29. Basics
30. Refuse of grapes
31. Go quickly
33. French ballet dynasty
35. Most open
36. Popular soap ingredient
37. US time zone (abbr.)
39. Items of food
42. Backbones
43. Infrequent
44. Blood type
46. "Let It Snow!" songwriter
47. Dutch colonist
48. Pike
49. Egyptian sun god
50. A cardinal is one

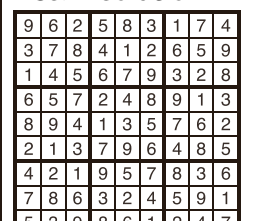
### Dec. 2 Solution



### Sudoku



### Dec. 2 Solution



Level: Intermediate



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# OBITUARIES

## Diane MacNeil

LAKEVILLE — Diane MacNeil, 64, passed away peacefully on Nov. 20, 2021, at her home in Garland, Texas, after a brief illness. Diane was born in Sharon on Feb. 16, 1957. She was a graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

Blodgett.

She was predeceased by her father, Edwin R. MacNeil; and her brother, Alan MacNeil. She is survived by a sister-in-law, June; two nieces; and several cousins.

Memorial donations may be made to the scholarship fund at Noble Horizons, 17 Cobble Road, Salisbury, CT 06068.

## Ruthmary Willand

SALISBURY — Ruthmary Willand, 85, of Taconic and formerly of Frankford Township, N.J., died Nov. 29, 2021, at home surrounded by her family and friends.

created countless wonderful memories for her children and grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband, Steven Willand; her three children, James, Mary and Richard Pellegrino; two step-children, Suzanne and Scott Willand; eight grandchildren, Richard, Michael, Jacquelyn and her husband, Stephen, Marissa, Nicholas, Statler, Steffen and Sharyce; and a great-grandson, Logan.

Her brother, Jack Hille, predeceased her.

Visitation was on Friday, Dec. 3, and Saturday, Dec. 4, at Smith-McCracken Funeral Home in Newton, N.J. Funeral services were held Dec. 4 at the funeral home. Interment was in Frankford Plains Cemetery in Augusta.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Ruthmary's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, P.O. Box 1893, Memphis, TN 38101.

Online condolences may be offered at [www.smithmccrackenfuneralhome.com](http://www.smithmccrackenfuneralhome.com).

With her husband, Steve, she embarked on many an adventure, from fly-fishing to farming. She designed the Augusta, N.J., farmhouse where they lived together for 20 years, as well as a fishing cottage in Upstate New York.

Above all, Ruthmary was a tender and devoted mother and grandmother, who



## John Francis LaCurto

AMENIA — John Francis LaCurto, 79, a lifelong area resident, died peacefully on Nov. 29, 2021, at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital in Torrington following a courageous battle with lymphoma.

John was a licensed electrical contractor and the longtime owner of LaCurto Electric, Inc., based in Amenia, where he was known for his honest, professional nature and meticulous attention to detail in all aspects of residential and commercial wiring, maintenance, repairs and electrical construction and installation. LaCurto Electric also specialized in electric heat and specialty lighting.

John's longtime business motto was "Small jobs welcomed" and John and his longtime dedicated employees were always available to handle all aspects of the electrical trade. The business continues to operate out of the Amenia office as LaCurto/Wilcox Electric as a tribute to John's legacy and his unmatched dedication to his beloved customers.

Born Feb. 18, 1942, in Beacon, N.Y., he was the son of the late John LaCurto and Margaret L. Delaney.

He attended Webutuck High School in Amenia and served his country in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. He was honorably discharged following his tour of duty.

His wife, Diana LaCurto passed away on June 17, 2020, at their home in Amenia.

John was a longtime parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia, a past member of the Amenia Fire Company and Amenia Lions

Club and a 35-year member of the Dutchess County Electrical Contractors Association (DCECA) where he served for 10 years on the Board of Directors and five years as treasurer. John was honored in 2005 as the Citizen of the Year by the Millerton Lions Club and again in 2010 as the Citizen of the Year by the Amenia Lions Club.

John is survived by two daughters, Donna Flinn and her husband, Russell, of Millerton and Linda Staab and her companion, Rich, of Dover Plains, N.Y.; three step-children, Marion McPadden and her fiancé, Jose Gueits, James McPadden and his wife, Lauren, and Susan Krebs; his grandchildren, Alicia Bishop and her husband, Jason, Allison Flinn, Katelyn Staab, Madison and Mackenzie McPadden and Kyle Krebs and Ann Marie Bailey, Christopher Bailey and Cole Staab; two great-grandchildren, Benjamin and Tyler Bishop; several nieces and nephews; and his longtime associates, James Dick and Shawn Wilcox.

Calling hours were held on Thursday, Dec. 2, at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Friday, Dec. 3, at Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia, the Rev. R. Kent Wilson officiating.

Burial with military honors was at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Amenia on Saturday, Dec. 4. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

To send an online condolence to the family, go to [www.conklinfuneralhome.com](http://www.conklinfuneralhome.com).



## Margaret 'Peg' Anne (Deloy) Bachetti

NORTH CANAAN — Margaret "Peg" Anne (Deloy) Bachetti, 78, died Nov. 28, 2021, at the Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center following a brief battle with cancer.

She was born in North Canaan on April 21, 1943, daughter of the late Marjorie (Garfield) and Raymond Deloy.

After graduating from Northwest Regional High School in Winsted, she enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1962, earning the rank of PFC before being released in 1964.

Peg was employed as a clerk at the North Canaan Stop & Shop. Prior to that she had worked for many years for the Becton Dickinson Company in North Canaan.

She enjoyed exploring the small towns of Vermont and trips to Cape Cod, but her

greatest joy was her family, especially her two great-grandsons.

Margaret is survived by her son, David Balch and his fiancée, Sylvia Collins; her brother, James Deloy and his wife, Cindy, of Monterey, Mass.; her grandson, Joshua Balch, his wife, Christine, and their two sons, Oakley and Jet, of Miami Beach, Fla.

A graveside service with full military honors will be held on Saturday, Dec. 11, at 11 a.m. in St. Joseph's Cemetery in North Canaan.

Memorial donations may be made to the Humane Society of the United States, 1255 23rd St. NW, Suite 450, Washington, DC 20037.

Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk Palmer Funeral Home.

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



### Worship Services

Week of December 12, 2021

Call ahead or visit websites for updates on remote or in-person services.

<p><b>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.</b> 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Online worship, Sundays at 10:00 a.m. <a href="http://www.salisburyucc.org">www.salisburyucc.org</a> Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>	<p><b>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon</b> 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 <a href="http://www.christchurchsharon.org">www.christchurchsharon.org</a></p>
<p><b>St. John's Episcopal Church</b> 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on YouTube <a href="http://www.stjohnssalisbury.org">www.stjohnssalisbury.org</a> 860-435-9290</p>	<p><b>Greenwoods Community Church</b> 355 Clayton Road, Ashley Falls, MA Sunday Service 10:30 AM Kidz Connection K-6th grade (during Sun. Service) Nursery Care All Services Pastor Trip Weiler 413-229-8560 <a href="http://www.greenwoodschurch.com">www.greenwoodschurch.com</a></p>
<p><b>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC</b> Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am <a href="http://www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational">www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational</a> 860-824-7232</p>	<p><b>St. Thomas Episcopal Church</b> 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-373-9161 <a href="http://www.stthomasamenia.com">www.stthomasamenia.com</a> A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p><b>FISHES &amp; LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH</b> is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm &amp; Thursday 12-2 pm <a href="http://www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org">www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</a></p>	<p><b>Trinity Episcopal Church</b> 484 Lime Rock Rd., Lime Rock In person services on Sundays 8:00 and 10:30 A.M. Livestream at 10:30 on <a href="http://www.trinitylimerock.org">www.trinitylimerock.org</a> The Rev. Heidi Truax <a href="mailto:trinity@trinitylimerock.org">trinity@trinitylimerock.org</a> (860) 435-2627</p>
<p><b>The Sharon United Methodist Church</b> 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer Pastor Sun Yong Lee 860-364-5634 <a href="mailto:sharonumc5634@att.net">sharonumc5634@att.net</a></p>	<p><b>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT</b> Join our virtual Zoom service on Sunday, December 12 at 10:30 a.m. "Faith Without Borders" For information, contact Jo Loi at <a href="mailto:jokialoio@gmail.com">jokialoio@gmail.com</a> All are Welcome</p>
<p><b>Promised Land Baptist Church</b> 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! <a href="http://www.promisedlandbaptist.org">www.promisedlandbaptist.org</a></p>	<p><b>The Lakeville United Methodist Church</b> 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Pastor Joy Veronesi 860-455-9496 <a href="mailto:Lakevillemethodist@snet.net">Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</a></p>
<p><b>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall</b> Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Email Rev. Mary Gates at: <a href="mailto:mmgates125@gmail.com">mmgates125@gmail.com</a> for an invitation to the Zoom service If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone. We hope you will join us!</p>	<p><b>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH</b> Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 5 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p><b>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church</b> 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. <a href="http://www.thesmithfieldchurch.org">www.thesmithfieldchurch.org</a> 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p><b>UCC in CORNWALL</b> Congregational Worship Sunday, 10 am Cornwall Village Meeting House 8 Bolton Hill Rd., Cornwall Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 FB - UCC in Cornwall Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p><b>SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH</b> 860-927-3003 The Churches of Sacred Heart, Kent St. Bernard, Sharon St. Bridget, Cornwall Bridge CHRISTMAS EVE MASS 4 PM St. Bridget, St. Bernard, Sacred Heart CHRISTMAS DAY MASS 10 AM - Sacred Heart SUNDAY DECEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> MASS 8 AM - St. Bernard 10 AM - Sacred Heart JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> HOLY DAY MASS 10 AM - St. Bridget</p>	<p><b>Sharon Congregational</b> 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website <a href="http://sharoncongregationalchurch.org">sharoncongregationalchurch.org</a> for current online Bible studies and Sunday services Join us in our fellowship hall for in-person Bible study, Thursday, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Contact us at 860-364-5002 or <a href="mailto:info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org">info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</a></p>
<p><b>Canaan United Methodist Church</b> 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 <a href="mailto:canaanct-umc.com">canaanct-umc.com</a> <a href="mailto:canaanctumc@gmail.com">canaanctumc@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church</b> 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 <a href="http://allsaintsofamerica.us">allsaintsofamerica.us</a></p>

# OUR TOWNS

## Affordable housing, Sharon Hospital will be concerns for Cornwall in 2022

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — With a temporary trailer in place at the transfer station and construction beginning, the Board of Selectmen heard a progress report and also opened discussion of their goals for 2022 at their regular meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 16. The meeting was held on Zoom and drew 21 participants.

After reporting that the trailer had been delivered and leveled into place, First Selectman Gordon Ridgway said demolition of the old building was to begin after Thanksgiving. A delay in delivery of the new windows was anticipated due to the national supply chain problems.

"We should push ahead where we can," Ridgway said. The trailer has served as a workstation and storage area for equipment.

Selectman Priscilla Pavel praised transfer station staff

Ted Larson and Will Berry for the assistance they provide to residents visiting the station. The Swap Shop is open now — but on a limited schedule on Tuesdays and Thursdays, due to COVID-19. Those hours keep the volume of traffic and visitors manageable.

Discussing affordable housing and the public hearing that was held on Wednesday, Dec. 8, on Zoom, Pavel spoke of the lack of affordable rentals. She recommended a long-term focus on a third apartment village complex, similar in scope to Bonney Brook and Kugeman Village.

"I think it's a real need," Pavel said.

Ridgway responded that the housing plan touches on that idea and he shared her concern that young people are finding homes only with difficulty in area towns. Currently, the least expensive home to purchase in Cornwall is \$680,000.

Discussion turned to 2022

goals to be addressed by the selectmen, who agreed to assemble the annual list in time for their December meeting.

Suggesting some topics right away, though, Ridgway said that the list should include housing and health care in view of Sharon Hospital issues and social services — which he described as "taking care of people who need help."

The West Cornwall wastewater project will be in the forefront for 2022, Ridgway said, expecting a focus on federal funding sources. Also, the closure next summer of the state's trash disposal center will be a prime concern, he said. Town residents and businesses will need to look for ways to reduce the amount of garbage when disposal rates increase.

Renovation of town buildings, with attention to Town Hall, will be a topic for the coming year, with the introduction of energy efficiencies while dealing with the effects

of deferred maintenance.

Use of the ARPA Funds will come up in 2022; and the town will need to devise a policy regarding cannabis.

The question of fiber optic networks and high speed internet will also continue into 2022 for the town, Ridgway said.

In Loving Memory of my nephew  
**Timmy Shaffer**  
1/22/1971 - 12/8/2020

Dear Timmy,  
To my firstborn nephew. Godchild.  
Your life was too short, but you lived it to the fullest. I have so many beautiful memories of watching you grow up. May you rest in eternal peace.  
All my love, Aunt Candy

## Food drive at Salisbury Bank

Salisbury Bank's 14th annual Fill-the-Basket food drive runs through Dec. 17 at all 14 branches of the bank, in Berkshire, Litchfield, Dutchess, Orange and Ulster counties.

The bank branches will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items and household supplies. Cash donations will also be accepted.

Pantries are in particular need of canned goods, cereals, macaroni and cheese, cake mix, peanut butter, mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard and tomato sauce. Household necessities such as paper towels, diapers, shampoo and soap are also appreciated.

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# Our Towns

## In the village of Kent, the holiday fun is just beginning

By Cynthia Hochswender

KENT — Kent crammed a lot of Christmas into one day on Saturday, Dec. 4, with a tree lighting on the Green outside Town Hall; a fire company Parade of Lights after dark; and the Gingerbread Festival at several downtown locations.

The Kent School choir belted out carols at the tree lighting on the Green and First Selectman Jean Speck greeted the crowd.

Normally, there are Parades of Lights in many area towns, but this year Kent was only one of the parade hosts.

The parade and the lighting of the tree are only the beginning of a month of activities. St. Andrew's will offer breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 9 a.m. to noon, with a COVID-conscious Breakfast to Go format (bring your own cup!). The cost is \$5 per person or \$20 per family.

The fire department's Stuff a Truck collection of unwrapped new toys for local families in need is also on Dec. 11, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Children can deliver a letter to Santa at the mailbox in the front of Town Hall. Add a name and return address for a letter from the Elves. And the Gingerbread Festival continues all month.



Gingerbread houses depicting life in Kent are on display around town. For more photos, turn to Page B5.



PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Area fire companies took part in Kent's boisterous and bright Parade of Lights as it rolled along Main Street to the firehouse. For another photo of the tree lighting on the Green, turn to Page A1.

## Mohawk Mountain enters its 75th season

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — Good news for winter enthusiasts is that the Mohawk Mountain ski area opened on Friday, Dec. 3, welcoming skiers to its 75th anniversary year.

Plans are underway for an anniversary celebration event, probably in January, according to Cassie Schoenknecht, director of operations for the ski area. Her grandfather Walter Schoenknecht created and opened the ski area in 1947. He also invented the first snowmaking machine for use in his ski area, his granddaughter related during a conversation on Thursday, Dec. 2.

"We're very excited," Schoenknecht said, indicating that she has worked at the ski area all her life. "It's quite a milestone."

Snowmaking machinery has laid a base layer on the slopes that

are being served by two lifts, Mohawk and Nutmeg.

Hours of operation to start the season will be Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. New this year is a way to purchase lift passes online through the Mohawk website, making it possible to go directly to the lift area.

While some of the pandemic precautions are a bit more lenient this year than last year, industry-wide standards remain in place. Visitors should still plan to use their vehicles for warming and for donning ski gear, Schoenknecht advised.

To keep everyone safe, visitors should consult the ski area's website for COVID rules regarding use of the lodge facilities. Go to [www.mohawkmtn.com](http://www.mohawkmtn.com) for details and to purchase tickets, or phone 860-672-6100 for information.



## Sharon Hospital Community Update

Come learn about the latest developments at Sharon Hospital. President Mark Hirko, MD, will present a virtual community report that includes information on our services and an update on the affiliation that created Nuvance Health. The independent monitor we engaged will report on its review of compliance with the affiliation agreement issued by Connecticut's Office of Health Strategy.

We will discuss and answer questions from the community following the presentation.

### Please join us via Zoom webinar:

[nuvancehealth.org/CTForums](https://nuvancehealth.org/CTForums)  
 Join via phone: (646) 558-8656 or (669) 900-6833  
 Meeting ID: 928 8491 3239 Passcode: 896086

December 14 5:30-7 pm

### To submit questions in advance:

Call: (845) 554-1734  
 Email: [sharonhospital@nuvancehealth.org](mailto:sharonhospital@nuvancehealth.org)  
 Mail: Sharon Hospital, Attn: Community Forum  
 50 Hospital Hill Road, Sharon, CT 06069

This will also stream live at [facebook.com/sharonhospital](https://facebook.com/sharonhospital)

No registration required

TTY/Accessibility: (800) 842-9710



## NUVANCE

Continued from Page A1

768 providers, and Danbury Hospital had 1,079 providers.”

To help keep the hospitals functioning, Herlihy says, Nuvance “pays a staffing agency partner significant fees to fill specific, hard to recruit positions at Sharon Hospital. Although this option is currently being utilized in an effort to fill open positions at Sharon Hospital, the nationwide health care worker shortage has also impacted the availability of clinical providers through staffing agencies.”

### Can't fill labor and delivery nurse jobs in Sharon

She referred specifically to challenges faced in staffing the labor and delivery unit in Sharon, where there are now three open registered nurse jobs that need to be filled.

“Nuvance Health has historically encountered challenges recruiting for these positions

and has regularly resorted to utilizing its staffing agency partner....”

Herlihy says the staffing agency has “approximately 1,100 requests for Labor & Delivery Registered Nurses for which they have approximately 56 individuals available, resulting in a very low likelihood that the agency will be able to fill these positions.”

Herlihy says there is a national shortage of labor and delivery nurses.

Nuvance tried to grow new staff with an obstetrical registered nurse residency in 2019. “To date five nurses have completed the residency.”

### No success in attracting OB-GYN doctors

Herlihy then described “extensive recruiting efforts aimed at attracting obstetrics and gynecology physicians to the Sharon community.”

This “multi-faceted recruitment approach via professional recruiting channels, advertising, and locum tenens searches” has so far not succeeded in attracting new doctors.

Herlihy says in her letter that, “Sharon Hospital and Nuvance Health have sought to support the hiring of physicians by community obstetrics and gynecology practices by offering financial support and incentives for recruitment and on-boarding, in accordance with federal guidelines, but efforts have been unsuccessful.”

She then blamed “the instability of community providers” for exacerbating “the strain on the remaining providers and service.”

Nuvance might have considered “shifting clinical staff from other Nuvance Health facilities to Sharon Hospital” but the remote location makes it hard for doctors “to assume call coverage, or cover in-person shifts while managing shifts in another location.”

Also, some of the doctors employed by Nuvance, which is based in New York State, are not licensed in Connecticut.

At any rate, Herlihy says, there aren't really any extra doctors anywhere in the Nuvance system, where “there are currently more than 1,600 open positions across the health system, including 50 clinical positions at Sharon Hospital.”

### Decrease in deliveries statewide

Herlihy's letter then refers to Nuvance's consistent claim that “Nuvance Health's continuous, dedicated efforts to develop a long-term, sustainable staffing plan have been unsuccessful to date, due in part to the combination of decreasing birthing volume and the rural location.”

The Sharon Hospital labor and delivery unit “is currently adequately staffed to meet the needs of the community,” with one Nuvance-employed and one “community-based” obstetrics doctor.

Even though there is a decreasing need for obstetricians, Herlihy says that the two now

delivering babies at Sharon Hospital have “a demanding call coverage schedule” and have had to sometimes “rely on general surgeons to assist with C-sections (which increases the burden on the general surgery practice and makes it more difficult to recruit surgeons).”

In closing, Herlihy reiterates that Nuvance has tried to recruit new doctors without much success.

Some doctors recruited to Sharon have left “for busier practices in other markets, forcing Sharon Hospital to re-start recruiting efforts in the midst of a workforce shortage,” Herlihy says.

Two other hospitals in Connecticut (neither of which is owned by Nuvance) have also announced this year that they will close their labor and delivery units, for similar reasons. They are Windham Community Hospital, which is part of the Hartford HealthCare network; and Johnson Memorial Hospital in Stafford Springs, which is part of Trinity Health of New England.

Tina Hyde, manager of external affairs for the Office of Health Strategy, said, “OHS is reviewing the [Nuvance] responses and a timeframe for a decision of the Certificate of Need is unknown at this time.”

## OMICRON

Continued from Page A1

ct.gov/vaccine-portal.

### North Canaan Dec. 12

There will be a vaccination clinic only for children ages 5 to 11 at North Canaan Town Hall on Sunday, Dec. 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. The Pfizer vaccine will be administered at no cost. This clinic is only for residents of the Northwest Corner; it is a walk-in clinic, no appointment is needed. No ID or insurance is required.

### Salisbury clinic Dec. 28

Griffin Health Care will be at the Town Grove Senior



PHOTO BY HUNTER O. LYLE

## Angels we have heard on high

Irene Light, at left in photo, and Lee Sohl were among the musicians accompanying carolers in Sharon on Saturday, Dec. 4. For more photos, turn to Page A3.

## HVA

Continued from Page A1

Housatonic and other rivers in the region.

“There is room for everyone here, but we don't currently have a system in place to accommodate everyone,” Werner said.

HVA continues to seek ways to enhance accessibility for “a variety of users,” she said. “This year we added bilingual capacity” for the many visitors for whom English is a second language.

The meeting also featured a slide presentation on climate change and concerning weather patterns, featuring David Vallee, Hydrologist-in-Charge at the National Oceanic and At-

mospheric Administration/National Weather Service's Northeast River Forecast Center.

Vallee described practices that are being looked at as a way to mitigate losses due to heavy rains, flooding, tropical cyclones and storm surges.

He discussed the changing climate and pointed to common themes across New England, such as increased precipitation, increased frequency of heavy rains, warming annual temperatures and wildly varying seasonal snowfall.

“I've lived in New England my entire life and it's quite different now from when I was a kid,” 30 or 40 years ago, Vallee said.

The “magnitude of rainfall” is much more intense, as evidenced by the bands of heavy rain that Ida brought to the area in early September, and Henri dumped on Connecticut in late August.

This year's HVA River Champion of the Year award was presented to Dr. Xinyi Shen, assistant research professor at the University of Connecticut School of Engineering, for his assistance in helping to solve river issues locally.

Robert Valentine, Goshen's former eight-term first selectman, was named HVA's Conservationist of the Year for his role in protecting and preserving hundreds of acres of farmland and forest within his community.

## CLARK

Continued from Page A1

Janet Manko said of Clark's promotion, “So much of what The Lakeville Journal Company and now the Foundation is about is finding new ways to make local journalism work, against all the odds. Without having had James Clark as part of our group, there would have been real question as to whether any of those initiatives could have succeeded. His ability to find cost efficient answers to problems that might be seen as unsolvable by others has made all the difference for this little media company. We are thrilled he is willing to take on this new challenge, and look forward to seeing what comes next.”

Clark said, “I'm proud of the work that all at The Lakeville Journal have done to maintain a journalistic presence in the communities we serve. I'm honored to step into this role and look forward to working with each member of our team, CEO and Publisher Janet Manko, as well as our new Lakeville Journal Foundation Board to

strengthen and grow that presence.”

“It's often said that ‘No one is irreplaceable.’ James Clark is the exception who proves that rule,” said Lakeville Journal Executive Editor Cynthia Hochswender.

“He is truly irreplaceable, a Jack of All 21st-Century Trades who is able to fix and improve anything and everything at our small company. The list of all he does is truly too long to include here.

“The title Chief Operating Officer is perfectly suited to James: Everything in our company operates because he is there to keep it working. He is scrappy, inventive and indomitable,” she said.

“We are fortunate to have him, and would not have made it through the challenges of COVID and remote working without him. In addition to that, he contributes to the collegial environment that helps our small staff feel valued, protected and inspired.”

— Janet Manko

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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment



## 'OFF THE WALL' AT KENT ART ASSOCIATION

Five artists affiliated with the Kent Art Association in Kent, Conn., have informally gathered to create an exhibition of their work, "Off The Wall." Incongruous, not bound by subject matter, medium or artistic sentiment, artists Carl Chaiet, Werner Kappes, Frank Kara, Edward Robinson and Gino Zenobia

reaffirm that art thrives in both the darkest and brightest of times. The exhibition runs until Dec. 24 and is open Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. All COVID protocols should be adhered to while in the gallery, which is at 21 S. Main St. in Kent, Conn.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

## THEATER: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

# The English Holiday Tale That Americans Adore

Charles Dickens wrote his holiday-season classic "A Christmas Carol" as part of the English tradition of telling ghost stories during the holiday season. Smithsonian magazine did a wonderful article in 2016 explaining that ghost tales in winter are a continuation of a pagan practice. The longest day of the year was considered a time when the dead were most likely to come back and visit the living. That tradition died out, so to speak, in the 17th century but returned in Victorian

England. I don't actually know whether "A Christmas Carol" is still an essential part of the British holidays, but it seems to me that in America Ebenezer Scrooge is as ubiquitous a character as Saint Nick. This year, you can see two different theatrical productions based on the Dickens tale. The Center for Performing Arts in Rhinebeck, N.Y., presents a musical adaptation that will run until Dec. 19, with shows on Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. and

Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$25; email [boxoffice@centerforperformingarts.org](mailto:boxoffice@centerforperformingarts.org). TheatreWorks in New Milford, Conn., is offering a meta "Christmas Carol" show, called "What the Dickens?" and written by Matt Austin. A community theater group has to put on a traditional production of "A Christmas Carol" — but completely from memory. Complications and hilarity ensue in what the theater describes as "Monty Python meets Arthur Miller." "What the Dickens?" is

presented Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. through Saturday, Dec. 18, with one Sunday matinee on Dec. 12 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for reserved seating (\$20 for students and military personnel and veterans with ID). TheatreWorks warns that, "Due to some language and innuendo, this show is not recommended for children under 13." Reservations can be made online at [www.theatroworks.us](http://www.theatroworks.us) or by calling 860-350-6863. Masks and proof of vaccination or proof of negative COVID test within a 72-hour time frame are required; bring an ID card.

## Awards For Student Films From Youth Challenge

The partners behind the Bridging Divides, Healing Communities Youth Film Challenge announced three winning short films highlighting divisions and inequities in society, and how young people are tackling these challenges in their families, schools and communities.

Yonah Sadeh, a student at Bard College at Simon's Rock from Falls Village, Conn., received first place and \$2,000 for his film on affordable housing, "In Our Backyard."

Tommy Tranfaglia, a student at Endicott College from Lenox, Mass., was awarded the \$1,000 second place prize for his film on learning and attention disabilities, "Misunderstood."

Danny Wilkinson, a student at Mount Everett Regional High School from Sheffield, Mass., earned \$500 and third place for his film about body image and self-esteem, "Self image."

The challenge was led by the Berkshire Film and Media Collaborative and the Civic Life Project, with funding from Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

Honorable mentions went to Rachael Bentz, of Arts in Recovery for Youth from Pittsfield, Mass., for "The Story of Indigo Phoenix"; Anna Coon, a student at the University of Miami from Sharon, Conn., for "Hidden Insecurities"; Samantha Hoffman, a student at Chatham High School from East Chatham, N.Y., for "He/She/They"; and Madison Long, a

student at Housatonic Valley Regional High School from North Canaan, Conn., for "Under Pressure."

The winning films and a selection of other submissions will be screened at the Daniel Arts Center, Bard College at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington, Mass., on Sunday, Dec. 12, at 3 p.m. ([www.simons-rock.edu/events](http://www.simons-rock.edu/events)). Seating is limited and RSVP is required. All attendees must show proof of vaccination and wear masks.

Serving as judges for the challenge were Damon Osora, chair of the English Department and film teacher at Housatonic Valley Regional High School; Jayne Atkinson, an award-winning actor known primarily for her work in such hit television series as "24," "House of Cards" and "Madam Secretary"; Gretchen Rennell Court, a casting director for films such as "Flashdance," "Children of a Lesser God" and "The Horse Whisperer"; Mirissa Neff, a documentary filmmaker who has worked as a producer and correspondent for PBS and public radio programs; and Matthew Penn, an award-winning director of more than 150 primetime television dramas including "House," "The Sopranos," "NYPD Blue" and "Law & Order."

The Youth Film Challenge was open to residents ages 14 to 24 who live or go to school in northwest Litchfield, northeast Dutchess, Berkshire and Columbia counties.

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



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LOCAL AUTHORS: LEILA HAWKEN

# Preventing Depression During The Holiday Season

For some in our communities, the storm clouds of depression and anxiety may mar the anticipation of the holidays.

Taking on this timely topic, the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, Conn., sponsored a Zoom talk in November by psychotherapist Richard O'Connor, Ph.D., a Sharon resident and the author of "Undoing Depression," now in its third edition.

O'Connor described his reasons for writing his book, first published 20 years ago and said that one idea that intrigued him was that people can suffer from depression for years before realizing it.

"I sought a way to reach people before they had suffered the impact of depression on their lives," he said, adding that he too has dealt with bouts of depression over his lifetime.

"I found no single theory that could explain depression."

Depression is not a chemical imbalance in the brain, O'Connor said with certainty. It is, therefore, possible to influence it through therapy and self-help.

A healthy trend, he said, is that people are

more willing to talk about it and share their experiences with others. Current thinking centered on mindfulness can be helpful to many.

Learning how to find a calm center in the midst of stress, even for just 10 minutes, is positive, he said, noting that depression and anxiety go together.

Anxiety and depression are like two fingers on the same hand, O'Connor noted. "Learn to let self-criticism slide right off."

Anti-depressant drugs can help some people, and so he recommends trying them. He said studies have shown that drugs can help 55% of the people taking them. On the other hand, he said, placebos have been shown to help 50% of the people taking them.

A good way to stave off a depressive state is to exercise. Activity is a good mood changer, particularly in young people who may be experiencing emotional effects of pandemic isolation, or the emotional blows coming from relational break-ups or other intense stresses.

In preparing for the holidays, O'Connor suggests making adjustments to your expectations. Getting into the spirit of

giving can be a tremendous mood-booster. It just feels good to give, either by volunteering or donating in myriad other ways, he said.

"We never know what life will bring, but if you exercise good habits, then you can deal with what life has in store," he said.

Therapy can be helpful. Therapy is about trust, he noted, about opening up to a trusted person.

To find a therapist, he

said that Greenwood's Counseling Referrals of Litchfield, Conn., can be a good resource, providing evaluation and listings of appropriate therapists.

O'Connor maintains a psychotherapy practice in Sharon. For 14 years, he served as the executive director of the Northwest Center for Family Service and Mental Health. His book, "Undoing Depression," is available at bookstores and online.



PHOTO BY HANCOCK SHAKER VILLAGE

Hancock Shaker Village in Pittsfield, Mass., is lit up for the holiday season.

DAY TRIPS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

## Added Sparkle in a Traditional Shaker Holiday Setting

There's something about the simplicity of Shaker design and traditions that seems perfectly in keeping with ideas of an old-fashioned holiday season.

Hancock Shaker Village in Pittsfield, Mass., is a museum, a working farm and the oldest Shaker village in New England. Ironically, perhaps, this year they are stepping away from the more muted Shaker traditions of days gone by and adding some sparkle and pizzazz.

But perhaps this is just the incentive we all need to travel to Pittsfield, Mass., to see the 19th-century enclave, with its famous round barn.

In addition to the gloriously simple furniture and buildings, this holiday season there will "art light projections" throughout the festively festooned

grounds.

Visitors can peek at the donkeys, sheep and other animals (most of which will be dozing off by the time the light show begins). There will also be a show of never-before-seen Shaker miniatures.

There will be an outdoor firepit, and adult cocktails and non-alcoholic beverages will be served.

Hancock Holiday Nights runs Dec. 12 and 16 through 19, and Dec. 27 through 29. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for children 6-18, and free for 5 and under. Advanced purchase of timed tickets is required. (Tickets are not required for children ages 2 and younger.) Entrance to the Village is ticketed in 15-minute increments between 5 and 8 p.m. Find out more at [www.hancockshakervillage.org](http://www.hancockshakervillage.org).

JANE AUSTEN: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

## Christmas with the Darcys and (Gasp!) the Wickhams

It doesn't need to be the holiday season for fans of Jane Austen to crave some kind of modern sequel to her most popular works.

But it is in fact the holiday season — and playwrights Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon have a gift for all Austen fans in the form of a series of Christmas-season plays featuring the Bennett sisters and their spouses and suitors.

Shakespeare & Co. in Lenox, Mass., produced the first of these plays, "Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley," in 2017, the year after it debuted at the Northlight Theater in Chicago. The story revolves around bookish middle sister Mary, who finds love with a cousin of Mr. Darcy.

This year's Christmas show will be the second play based on "Pride and Prejudice." It's called "The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley" — a title guaranteed to make Austen fans gasp with trepidation.

The action takes place "downstairs,"

led by the motherly but tough head housekeeper, Mrs. Reynolds. Will she manage to keep Mr. Wickham (who of course she has known since he was a child) in line and avoid any flare-ups with archenemy Fitzwilliam Darcy?

Find out in the Tina Packer Theater at Shakespeare & Co. on Dec. 16 and 17 at 7 p.m., Dec. 18 at 2 and 7 p.m. and Dec. 19 at 2 p.m. Get details and order tickets at [www.shakespeare.org](http://www.shakespeare.org).

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# 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).

### MISC.

**Berkshire Botanical Garden.** 5 West Stockbridge Road, Stockbridge, Mass. [www.berkshirebotanical.org](http://www.berkshirebotanical.org)

Winter Table Arrangements with Township Four, Dec. 18, 1 to 3 p.m.

**D. M. Hunt Library.** 63 Main Street, Falls Village, Conn. [www.huntlibrary.org](http://www.huntlibrary.org)  
HOLIDAY POP-UP SHOP, through Jan. 11.

**Grace Episcopal Church.** 3330 Franklin Ave., Millbrook, N.Y. [www.gracemillbrook.org](http://www.gracemillbrook.org)  
Live Nativity Scene, Dec. 19.

**Housatonic Valley FFA Holiday Store.** 246 Warren Tpke., Falls Village, Conn., [ffa.hvrhs.org](http://ffa.hvrhs.org)  
Trees, wreaths, roping, poinsettias and more; Nov. 27-Dec. 23, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Kent Chamber of Commerce.** Kent, Conn. [www.kentct.com](http://www.kentct.com)  
Kent Gingerbread Festival 2021, through Dec. 31.

**The Mount.** 2 Plunkett St., Lenox, Mass. [www.edithwharton.org](http://www.edithwharton.org)  
Holiday House Tours, Nov. 27 through Jan. 2.

### ART

**The Clark Art Museum.** 225 South St., Williamstown, Mass. [www.clarkart.edu](http://www.clarkart.edu)  
ART YARNS - DIGITAL GALLERY TALK, Dec. 9, 5 to 6 p.m. (online).  
DRAWING CLOSER: PARTIAL VIEW, Dec. 10, 11 a.m. to noon.

**Furnace — Art on Paper Archive.** 107 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. [www.furnace-artonpaperarchive.com](http://www.furnace-artonpaperarchive.com)  
Gelach Penn: Angels with Dirty Faces, Nov. 13 to Dec. 12.

**Southern Gallery of the Wish House.** 413 Sharon Goshen Turnpike, West Cornwall Conn. [www.southernartgallery.net](http://www.southernartgallery.net)  
Cornwall Artisans Pop-Up Shop, weekends starting Nov. 26 through Dec. 19, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### BOOKS

**Scoville Memorial Library.** 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [www.scovillelibrary.org](http://www.scovillelibrary.org)  
Library Book Group led by Claudia Cayne, Dec. 11, 4 to 5 p.m. (in person and online).

### ADVERTISE IN COMPASS

Support the arts coverage you find each week in Compass. Your ad dollars help us tell readers about artists who continue to create and entertain during the pandemic.

### DANCE

**Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art.** 600 Main St., Hartford, Conn. [www.thewadsworth.org](http://www.thewadsworth.org)  
Festival of Trees & Traditions, Dec. 9, 10, 11, 12, noon to 5 p.m.

**Norman Rockwell Museum.** 9 Glendale Road, Stockbridge, Mass. [www.nrm.org](http://www.nrm.org)  
Book Launch Celebration: Jan Brett's The Nutcracker, Dec. 11, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### KIDS

**Hotchkiss Library of Sharon.** 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. [www.hotchkisslibrary.org](http://www.hotchkisslibrary.org)  
Weekly After School Story & Craft: Holidays, Dec. 15, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

**Millbrook Free Library.** 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y. [www.millbrooklibrary.org](http://www.millbrooklibrary.org)  
Arts & Crafters: Let It Snow...flake Ornaments!, Dec. 15, 5 to 6 p.m.

### MOVIES

**The Moviehouse.** 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. [www.themoviehouse.net](http://www.themoviehouse.net)  
Now playing: House of Gucci, Encanto, Belfast, Ghostbusters: Afterlife, West Side Story, House of Gucci, Bolshoi Ballet: The Nutcracker, Dec. 19.

### MUSIC

**Barrington Stage Company.** 122 North St., Pittsfield, Mass. [www.barringtonstageco.org](http://www.barringtonstageco.org)  
Holiday Getaway, Dec. 9 to 12 (online).

**Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center.** 14 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass. [www.mahaiwe.org](http://www.mahaiwe.org)  
Jane Lynch & Kate Flannery — A Swingin' Little Christmas, Dec. 10, 8 p.m.

### THEATER

**Barrington Stage Company.** 122 North St., Pittsfield, Mass. [www.barringtonstageco.org](http://www.barringtonstageco.org)  
Eleanor, Dec. 9 to 12 (online).

**Shakespeare & Company.** 70 Kemble St., Lenox, Mass. [www.shakespeare.org](http://www.shakespeare.org)  
The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley, Dec. 16 to 19.

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### EDITORIAL

## Nine years, yet not enough has changed

There are some anniversaries it can be almost too painful to wish to remember: the ninth one of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting is perhaps the most intense of those. It was Dec. 14, 2012, when the small town of Newtown, just about 40 miles from here, had its heart ripped out by a murderer who entered the school with a Bushmaster XM15-E2S rifle and 10 magazines with 30 rounds each.

That day, 20-year-old Adam Lanza first killed his mother at their home, then went to the school and shot and killed 26 people: 20 children between six and seven years old, and six adult staff members. We all heard these chilling details nine years ago, and since, but in light of the fact that public figures like Infowars host and conspiracy theorist Alex Jones have called this nightmare a hoax, these facts should always be repeated and remembered.

Connecticut has since taken steps to make gun laws more restrictive to help prevent such tragedies from happening again. Yet across the country, school shootings continue to be perhaps the worst part of our culture. (Racism and the ravages it has created over centuries might just win that top spot.) Only during COVID shutdowns was there finally relief from this societal scourge. Can it actually be that the only way to reduce these shootings would be to close our schools? Give those who are sick and violent fewer targets?

The will to face down the result of too many guns available to too many monsters who can obtain them and shoot innocent children and adults at schools is not yet in wide evidence in our society. A combination of gun control law reform, school security and mental health awareness and treatment that would have an effect on those who are entering schools with guns has not yet been successfully widely defined and implemented. If ever it could be, now would be the time.

Connecticut's U.S. Senators Murphy and Blumenthal are both committed to legislation to address school shootings, but of course the Second Amendment, the NRA and those who vote to keep all guns available to those who shouldn't have them are obstacles to passing it. Voters who agree that such change has to happen to move our country along the right path must let their representatives know that.

There have been at least 29 school shootings during 2021. (Go to [www.edweek.org](http://www.edweek.org) for more details on them.) The latest, on Nov. 30 at Oxford High School in Michigan, is the deadliest. The parents of the 15-year-old shooter have also been arrested and charged with involuntary manslaughter after buying the gun for their son. The shooter himself has been charged as an adult with murder, terrorism and other crimes.

But every school shooting, and every shooting affecting children and other innocent victims across the United States, is deeply life changing for those directly involved, their loved ones and their communities for years to come. And every one gravely diminishes us as a nation. Action must be taken, and will only happen if Americans support it and let their legislators know they will vote for those who support it.

There will be a vigil on the ninth anniversary of the Sandy Hook tragedy on Tuesday, Dec. 14, from 5 to 6 p.m. in front of The White Hart Inn in Salisbury. Take a candle for the ceremony. It is meant to remember those who died that day, and all victims of gun violence.

## Killing beauty: official reasons must be known

I am writing to express my D.E.E.P. concerns (pun intended) over the recent cutting of trees in Housatonic Meadows Park Picnic Area. I have frequented the park most every day for the past 10 years walking my dog. A couple of months ago I noticed many trees along the riverside picnic area as well as along the internal roadway had been 'marked' with red paint. Never was any notice to the general public posted in the park about the intended activity that the 'marking' of trees signified.

This member of the general public would have been very interested to be 'officially' made aware of the assessed conditions of such beautiful trees in such a beautiful location and

the reasons behind the judgment to cut them. I would have appreciated the professional respect due the general public when a radical alteration of such a well regarded and beautiful public resource is contemplated and planned by a Conn. State agency. The cutting of these beautiful trees without any prior public outreach has caused a shock wave of distrust and resentment locally.

Contrast this abhorrent conduct with that of a fisherman's ritual I observed just this morning in Housatonic Meadows Park: The steady left hand held the polished wooden handle and slowly lifted the dark green cotton net up from the surface of the river. The medium-sized trout lay underwater

just a smidge, almost still, but not quite, its lithe body following the inside curve of the net. The fisherman's free right hand gently followed the fishline into the mouth of the fish and ever so delicately retrieved the barbed hook. The net was then slowly lowered as the trout regained its mobility and once again its independence.

I have seen this ritual play out hundreds of times in the Housatonic River in Housatonic Meadows Park. It exemplifies such care given by anglers to the source of their pleasure, such consideration given to the beauty they cherish and such respect for a resource they share.

This morning's ritual, however, took place just across the

river from arboreal carnage. Where there used to be, up until a few weeks ago, beautiful towering oaks — there is now a score of naked stumps and rough piles of dead limbs. The river whispers (and sometimes roars) were bludgeoned into irrelevance by the 100 decibel mechanical monsters of 'civilization'. The 3000 years of collective growth rings have been sawed and chipped into oblivion.

No notice was given to the public of this impending slaughter. No justification proffered to the public for this arboreal butchery. 'Civilization' becomes an interrogative at such times.

**Michael Moschen**  
Cornwall Bridge

## Sad looking trees in Lakeville and Salisbury

In this Christmas season the Board of the Chamber of Commerce decided to go "solar" to light the many Christmas trees bordering Route 44...It was a joyful tradition, gone!

They are now invisible, blue(!), sad like a sinister funeral.

Lakeville

**Etienne Delessert**

*The views expressed here are not necessarily those of The Lakeville Journal and the Journal does not support or oppose candidates for public office.*

**Peter Fitting**

Salisbury



PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

### Waiting for spring

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Permit should not be approved

We represent a large group of concerned Lakeville residents who want to alert the greater Salisbury Community to a pending permit before the Salisbury Planning and Zoning Commission that would allow for commercialization of our rural residential area.

Park B. Smith, who resides at 119/121 Long Pond Road, is seeking a Special Permit under the category of "Philanthropic Use" to allow him to utilize his residentially zoned property "as destination and retreat area." He envisions events such as cooking classes, choral events, goat yoga, conferences, retreats for 30-60 attendees or more, and Sunday dinners among other activities. These commercial events, which are not allowable under current RR-1 zoning regulations without a special permit, will bring traffic, noise, odors, lights, among other disruptions and safety considerations to our otherwise quiet, residential area. Those living near Lion Rock Farm, in Sharon, know all too well of the deleterious impact of an event venue on a wide swath of surrounding neighbors who must contend with noise late into the evening.

Our concern is that Mr. Smith's application will not only have a significant negative impact on our neighborhood but will also set a precedent for our larger community by opening the door to other Special Permit applications that would allow activities that are otherwise prohibited under current zoning rules. If his application is approved, how could anyone predict the ways in which special permits may be used in the future and what might

be coming next door to them? If residential land in our quiet section of Lakeville is allowed to morph into a commercial event venue, it can happen in yours too.

As Don Poland Consulting noted in the 2009 Town of Salisbury Land Use Administrative Procedures Review Findings and Recommendations, "confidence is the currency that real estate values are based on. If residents, property owners, and businesses are not confident, they will not invest their time, money and effort in the community."

Because neither the application nor the applicant provided details about the size or scope of proposed activities, the exact nature or frequency of events, a site plan, or the impact on wetlands and endangered species on the applicant's property, generally leaving a significant number of crucial details and questions unanswered during the October 18th hearing, the Commission granted a continuation on this application until December 13th.

For the above reasons including safety, traffic, noise, disruption of wetlands and endangered species, we urge the Planning and Zoning Commission to deny the Smith application when it is presented on Monday, and we implore the residents of Salisbury to join with neighbors in opposition to this precedent setting matter. Let's keep the charming, picturesque, peaceful, and safe character of Salisbury's residentially zoned areas intact. We are at a crucial crossroads in the growth of Salisbury. The community's vocal engagement in the public zoning process will help to ensure the beauty,

rural nature and predictability of land usage in our community remains. See [www.salisburyct.us](http://www.salisburyct.us) for Zoom access on Monday, December 13th.

- Steve Aresty**  
**Barbara Maltby**  
**Beth Simon & Beth Greenberg, MD**  
**Kathy Stratton & The Stratton Family**  
**Carol Vargo & Rob Blanchard**  
**Steve Meersma**  
**David Maltby**  
**Ken Fields & Nikki Noya**  
**Barbara & Lawrence A. Inra, MD**  
**Rob & Barbara Bettigole**  
**Robert Clark**  
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**Bill & Sue Kirber**  
**David Allee**  
**Marcia Dodson**  
**Bill Yarnell**  
**Ellen Zimmer**

Lakeville

*Deadline for letters is Monday at 10 a.m. Send to publisher@lakevillejournal.com. No more than 500 words. Another letter next page.*

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — 1921

SALISBURY — Herbert Edelman has returned to New Haven. While at his home here he gave his mother's house a coat of white paint.

Beginning January 1st the new plan of auto registration will become effective. The charge per horse power is increased from 50 to 75 cents and is calculated from the number of cubic inches piston displacement. Under the new system, the fee for all passenger cars is determined by the following formula: The diameter of the bore in inches, squared, multiplied by 0.7854, multiplied by the number of cylinders. The result of this compilation gives the number of cubic inches of cylinder displacement and the fee is reckoned at eight cents per cubic inch. For the owner of a Ford this means a fee of \$15 in 1922. No car can be registered for less than \$15.

LIME ROCK — If anyone has seen a stray tiger cat will they please notify Perry Loucks.

60 years ago — 1961

A new building, a new interest and a new occupation has been added to the six-town area on a stretch of land bordering the Housatonic just north of Dutchers Bridge and opposite Green Acres, Canaan. Here Fiorello ("Jerry") Segalla is completing spacious training stables for thoroughbred race horses. They will be known as Green Acres Stables. The good-looking, creamy pink building (220 feet long by 52 feet wide) has a 540 foot indoor track and box stalls for 32 animals plus a wing which houses an office, a tack room with large stone fireplace, lavatories and a furnace room. Outdoors, the big tract of land flanking the river will, when landscaping is completed, boast seven or eight paddocks and a regulation half-mile training track.

Perry Mason should be called in to solve The Case of the Missing Deer — it's too much for the Canaan State Police! Edward H. Belter of Wassauc, N.Y. was traveling west on Route 4 in Sharon at 5:15 last Monday afternoon when a light eight-point buck jumped in front of his car and was killed. Mr. Belter went to a neighboring house a quarter of a mile down the road to report the accident. When he returned to the scene of the accident, the deer was gone and a bale of hay was left in its place. Was the hay a down payment on the deer? Or could a truck loaded with hay have been passing and threw off the bale to make room for the dead deer? Trooper George Zuraitis, who investigated, is baffled.

*Continued next page*

### THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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# Attention must be paid

Been thinking a lot about death and dying recently. Don't know how soon it will be for me, but have lost quite a few dear friends and know some for whom it may be quite close.

Am harking back to 1982 working at the Sharon Playhouse, when I had been convinced by Clifton Reed to become the Press Rep, something I had never done before. Clif had done press for the American Cancer Society in the MadMen Days, Clif having never smoked a cig in his life, although his lovely wife Jean, died of it.

Clif on the three martini lunch — the first is the one that rescues you from the morning, the second the one you really enjoy and the third giving you the strength to go back to work.

How did they do it? Clif convinced me to do the Sharon job. Our first production? Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman." Cannot tell you how many told us not to do the play.

DEATH in the title! Do you realize how many old people are here?

Miller lived right down the road.

We did it. People, lots of old, never underestimate old folks, came and loved it, as did Alvin Klein of the New York Times. Miller never came.

Joe Madison, civil rights activist and radio host on Siri, is on a hunger strike which he won't end until the John Lewis voting rights bill passes. Good luck, Joe. Hunger strikes.

The IRA, not what you have investments in, if you are lucky enough to have same, but the Irish Republican Army, had a hunger striker name of Bobby Sands who did succumb.

Joe Madison, who marched with Dr. King, said to his wife when she asked Are you really going to go this 'till the end? A one word answer came: Yes.

Then he went further to

Don Lemon on CNN. "I have five children, four grandchildren and one great grandchild and I never want them to think this sacrifice is too much." Lemon told Madison that he was already thin enough. Madison quipped, "I don't want to thin out our votes." Even the threat of death cannot strip him of his wit.

Madison again. He said he had done 45 days alongside the fabled comedian Dick Gregory, so this was nothing new. Move over Mahatma Gandhi.

As an underager in 1961, I wandered into a club off Rush Street in Chicago and there was this thin Black man chain-smoking and spinnin' yarns. Years later a man who claimed to rep Dick Gregory tried to interest me in writing jokes for Dick. "You'd just stand in the wings and when Dick comes off stage, you just give him notes." What? Gregory now gone.

Dick Shawn, who sang "Springtime for Hitler and Germany" in Mel Brooks' movie "The Producers", as the character LSD Lorenzo San D'Angelo, and the funniest man I have ever been near, who died while performing, was known for his outrageousness (he washed his hair on stage in a play of mine at the Yale Rep, when no one knew he was going to do it), suddenly hit the floor and the college audience thought it was just Dick being Dick until his son in the balcony shouted, "It's real!"

And Mort Sahl, the Godfather of all stand-ups. Another dead nonegenarian. (Shawn was listed as 56. A friend surmised, "That's Hollywood 64.")

I was doing a bit of a stand-up myself a few years back in Fargo, North Dakota — don't ask — and I had a newspaper

in hand, a la the great Sahl, who used to spin his yarns direct from the daily news, and I asked the audience of a hundred or so if they knew about Sahl. One man deep in age raised his hand. Sahl, without whom Maher, Noah, Sykes, Wong, Colbert, Silverman, et alia, would not exist.

Sahl who said, "Is there someone I haven't offended?"

Death and dying. As Linda Loman says in "Salesman", "Attention must be paid."

Lonnie Carter is a writer who lives in Falls Village. Email him at [lonniety@comcast.net](mailto:lonniety@comcast.net), or go to his website at [www.lonniecarter.com](http://www.lonniecarter.com).

## SOVEREIGN STATE LONNIE CARTER



# The teacher shortage isn't going away

The U.S. labor shortage is hitting the public education sector hard. Yes, COVID-19 and its mutations have had a lot to do with the lack of teachers, but the problem predates the pandemic. In just the last two months, 65,000 public education employees left the industry.

Across the United States, in October 2021, there were 575,000 fewer state and local education employees than in February 2020, according to the latest employment report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The pandemic, in some ways, was simply the straw that broke this camel's back.

Stagnant wages, or worse, falling wages, have beset the teaching industry for years. In 2018, for example, the wage gap between teachers and a comparably educated U.S. workforce was roughly 21%. Twenty-five years ago, that same wage gap was only 6%, but beginning to grow. And while most teachers, like everyone else, have enjoyed yearly wage gains of about 0.7%, that is less than half the average annual gains for the rest of the civilian workforce.

The pay issue extends beyond the teachers, however. Support staff and school bus drivers have had the same issues. In today's strapped labor market, public education support workers have a choice. Why continue to file school records, answer phones, or maneuver a bus load of kids when private sector offices and trucking companies are paying far more (with benefits) for that labor?

As you might imagine, fear of COVID-19 and continued stress brought on by the pandemic provided the impetus many teachers needed to make the decision to retire, or simply quit. Some hoped that as the pandemic waned, teachers and support staff would return, but that has not been the case. As a result, schools are making do where they can.

Some schools are continuing and extending their efforts to provide virtual learning. Others are shortening teaching hours, or in some cases, simply closing for a day or two per week. A school administrator's worst nightmare today is finding substitutes for a teacher on holiday, sick, or who enters quarantine after testing positive for the coronavirus. Those who might be willing to fill in as a teaching substitute are opting instead for different jobs. That is because temporary teaching wages are so low that cooking burgers at fast food restaurants pays more.

Unfortunately, the present demand for teachers is far outstripping the supply. Less and less college and university students are willing to embark on a teaching career. Many would face decades of repaying student loan debts on skimpy salaries with little or no prospects of ever making ends meet.

The public school labor shortage is worse, depending upon geographic location, grades, and subject matter. High schools and middle schools have always been harder to staff than elementary schools. STEM areas (science, math, special education and foreign languages) have always been chronically understaffed and have become more so since COVID-19. The Southern, Southwestern, and Western U.S. have historically struggled with teacher shortages. It is also the case when comparing urban and rural schools, versus easier to staff suburban schools.

Those teachers who have maintained their careers and jobs over the last year or two have had to contend with an overwhelming amount of responsibility during the pandemic. Overworked and stressed, many teachers are in burnout mode with few avenues to reduce their immediate symptoms. And while my heart goes out to this beleaguered group of workers, the impact of this shortage has severe ramifications for the future of education in America.

As most readers know, the U.S. continues to slip in educational rankings when compared to the developed world. It is most apparent in science and math. However, we are still perceived as having the best all-around educational system in the world. In order to remain at the top, we need good teachers--well-paid, well-educated people — who are proud and fulfilled in their chosen careers. As a first step, raising wages would seem to me to be a no-brainer.

Bill Schmick is registered as an investment advisor representative of Onota Partners, Inc., in the Berkshires. Bill's forecasts and opinions are purely his own and do not necessarily represent the views of Onota Partners, Inc. (OPI). None of his commentary is or should be considered investment advice. Direct your inquiries to Bill at 413-347-2401 or email him at [bill@schmicksretiredinvestor.com](mailto:bill@schmicksretiredinvestor.com). Investments in securities are not insured, protected or guaranteed and may result in loss of income and/or principal.

## THE RETIRED INVESTOR BILL SCHMICK



PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

## Orange sunset

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

Continued from previous page

Harry Bartram reported on Monday evening that he had received 41 contributions for the Town Clock Fund in response to a letter sent out in mid-November to about 170 Sharon residents asking for money for electrifying the Town Clock. He said that he was confident that enough money would be raised for the project but added that any money received in excess of that needed to make the change would be put in a permanent fund for maintenance of the clock.

CANAAN — William Merriman of East Main Street was elected president of the Tomorrow's Farmers 4-H Club at a recent meeting. The other officers are Harold Wickwire, vice president; Althea Vanicky, secretary-reporter; and Bruce Vanicky, treasurer. The club leader is Michael Vanicky of Allyndale Road.

— Leslie Mallinson, Postmaster at West Cornwall, has announced that the Rural Route has been extended to provide year round service for the patrons between Scoville's Corner and Yelping Hill entrance. In former years this portion of the route was not provided service between November 1st and May 1st.

25 years ago — 1996

Catamount ski area on Route 23 in Hillsdale, N.Y., Mohawk Mountain in Cornwall, and Butternut Basin on Route 23, east of Great Barrington, are all scheduled to open this Friday, provided there is enough snow from either a storm or from artificial snow-making, or a combination of both.

— Thirteen Region 1 students were honored last week at the annual Litchfield County Superintendents Association student recognition awards program. They were: Kelly Downey and Daniel Evon from Lee H. Kellogg School in Falls Village; Nicholas Hunter from Cornwall Consolidated School; Julia Devaux and Charles Vick, Kent Center School; Erin Godburn and Eric Rhynhart, North Canaan Elementary School; James Hutchings and Erin Kowtko, Salisbury Central School; Allison MacInnes and Melissa Moskowitz, Sharon Center School; and Cynthia Matthews and Roberta Yerkes, Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

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

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Reauthorize the Highlands Conservation Act now

The Highlands Conservation Act is the most significant and reliable source of federal land protection funding in our region. It represents a model of public / private partnership, saving more than 3,800 acres in Northwest Connecticut to date and leveraging Congress's investment with more than 2:1 in matching state, municipal and private contributions. The Highlands Conservation Act is revitalizing local economies while also promoting conservation, tourism, wildlife, and recreation.

The vast majority of Highlands transactions in Connecticut have helped our local land trusts protect special places in our communities by matching Open Space Watershed and Land Acquisition (OSWA) grants from the state with Highlands funded easements. These include conservation lands in Canaan/Falls Village, Cornwall, Goshen, Kent, , Norfolk, Salisbury, Sharon, Sherman, Simsbury, Torrington, Warren, Washington and Winchester.

Two bills that will reauthorize and enhance the Highlands Conservation Act are working their way through the House and Senate and enjoy bipartisan support. Senator Chris Murphy is the sponsor of S753 – The Highlands Conservation Act Reauthorization Bill - which has been reported favorably out of Committee. It awaits similar action in the House on Representative Sean Patrick Maloney's companion legislation H.R. 2793 so it can come to a floor vote. It is vital that it move forward, because in addition to reauthorizing the Highlands Conservation Act, these bills will:

- Increase the annual appropriation for the HCA from \$10 million to \$20 million;
- Provide a mechanism for Highlands states (PA / NJ / NY and CT) to petition the USFWS to change (expand) the Highlands boundary. In Connecticut, this could mean extending HCA eligibility to the rest of Litchfield County and additional parts of New Haven and Fairfield Counties. In New York, this could mean adding more Highlands communities in the Ten Mile River Valley, which currently only includes Pawling and Beacon;
- Allows updates to Highlands Study and associated maps using best available data from the Highlands States rather than requiring a new Forest Service updated study.
- Allows states like New Jersey that have laws in conflict with the federal appraisal standards to petition for an alternate appraisal method that would comply with state law.


• Provide the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service its state agency partners with appropriate funding to help efficiently administer grants and get more land protected.

We need Congress to act to bring the Highlands Conservation Act Reauthorization Act to a vote so that this highly effective and valuable program can continue to serve the conservation needs of our region. I am grateful to Senator Murphy for his leadership and Richard Blumenthal for his co-sponsorship of S. 753. I am likewise inspired by Representative Larson, Courtney, Himes and Hayes of Connecticut's House delegation, all of whom have cosponsored H.R. 2793. Let's get this done!

Timothy Abbott


North Canaan

More letters previous page.



## Realtor® at Large

Starting this January, Eversource Energy will be increasing their residential customers an additional 21% for electricity. The reason is simply that the cost of natural gas to produce the electricity has risen sharply. Customers can do the following to help soften this increase by taking advantage of Home Energy Solutions found at <https://www.eversource.com/content/ct-c/residential/save-money-energy>. In addition one can review the budget plans and assistance offered by Eversource at: <https://www.eversource.com/content/ct-c/residential/my-account/billing-payments/help-pay-my-bill>.



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# Our Towns



PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

## Real estate too sweet to last

Gingerbread houses that look good enough to eat can now be seen in the windows of businesses around town in Kent. For more about Kent's holiday festivities, turn to Page A5.



## Downtown NC is thriving; now parking is a problem

By Leila Hawken

**NORTH CANAAN** — Improper parking habits and lack of signage in the town center drew the attention of the Board of Selectmen at their regular meeting on Monday, Nov. 8, with immediate and long-term solutions being considered.

Of concern to the Economic Development Commission and local businesses is a lack of useful signs in the commercial center, where a number of new businesses have opened in recent months.

"We have a lot of free parking in North Canaan, but people don't know about it," Selectman Christian Allyn said, calling for signage that will point to municipal parking locations. In addition to suggesting that the town speak with the state Department of Transportation (DOT) about the issue, he also suggested that parking spaces be delineated by painted lines in the center.

First Selectman Charles Perotti noted that parking

has been an issue for the past 72 years, remembering a time when there was no parking at all. Exacerbating the problem, he observed, is that people who work in the businesses are parking in the available spaces and staying there all day. A further problem is created by apartment tenants parking on the street for extended periods.

Perotti felt that landlords should enforce parking rules with their tenants, and business employees should park away from their places of employment, thereby freeing up spaces for customers.

To make progress on signage, Perotti said that he has a meeting scheduled with DOT officials and the town's resident state trooper to review signage in the town center, handling of the crosswalks and traffic issues. Parking for cars with handicap parking permits will also be discussed as an issue because such spaces cannot be safely designated on the street. Rather, he said, they could be reserved in the municipal parking lot.

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## REAL ESTATE

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