



# The Lakeville Journal

12 PAGES IN 2 SECTIONS VOLUME 124 NUMBER 36 © 2021 The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC Periodical Rate Postage Paid at Lakeville (Town of Salisbury), Connecticut 06039 THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021 \$2.00

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



## Cowabunga!

The spring polar plunge in Lakeville has been an annual tradition for years, raising money for the Jane Lloyd Fund. Last year's plunge was held remotely because of COVID-19; this year, students at The Hotchkiss School leapt back into the lake, on April 11. For more photos, go to Page A3.

PHOTO BY CAROLINE BURCHFIELD

## Regional school budget moves forward to May 4 vote

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — After a public hearing on Thursday, April 8 (on Zoom), the Region One Board of Education voted to send a slightly trimmed budget proposal of \$16,026,463 to a regionwide referendum vote on Tuesday, May 4.

The Region One budget has three sections: Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS), Pupil Services (including special education) and the Regional Schools Services Center (RSSC).

Region One School District Business Manager Sam Herrick went through the 2021-22 budget proposal in fairly broad strokes for an online audience of about 25 people, including board members and school officials.

The board did remove \$16,580 in funds that were budgeted for marketing work, reducing the bottom line from \$16,043,043 (an increase of \$265,735 or 1.68%) to \$16,026,463, an increase of \$249,155 (1.58%).

Mike Ellington served as moderator.

Herrick noted that North Canaan is facing a significant increase in its assessment for 2021-22 of a little over \$395,000.

He reminded the audience that the formula for the assessments for member towns is part of the state law that established Region One, and added that the Region One administration has reached out to the state Department of Education concerning the matter, but has not yet received a reply.

One major change in the proposed budget is the addition of a social worker at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. During budget discussions, Principal Ian Strevver advocated for the position, citing the disruptive effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on students. Herrick said the position will be paid for in full with federal pandemic funds for 2021-22, and 50% federal funds in 2022-23.

Town assessments are below; towns are assessed based on the number of students from each town at the high school as of Oct. 1 the previous year.

### TOWN ASSESSMENTS

Adjusted to reflect the subtraction of \$16,580 from the marketing line

<b>Canaan/Falls Village</b>	\$1,476,319 decrease of \$200,098
<b>Cornwall</b>	\$1,484,561 increase of \$112,017
<b>Kent</b>	\$2,509,743 decrease of \$108,606
<b>North Canaan</b>	\$4,762,646 increase of \$395,667
<b>Salisbury</b>	\$3,725,651 increase of \$159,769
<b>Sharon</b>	\$2,067,541 decrease of \$109,596

## The complexities of storms, outages & repairs

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Eastern seaboard and upper Midwest are particularly vulnerable to electric blackouts in the event of a massive electromagnetic storm, warned Jeffrey Love of the United States Geologic Survey in a Zoom talk sponsored by the Scoville Memorial Library on Saturday, April 10.

And the contingency is not as remote as it might appear. In 1921, an electromagnetic storm took out a railroad station and communications technology between New York City and Albany, and disrupted communications nationwide.

The 1921 storm occurred between May 13 and 15, 1921. Love said such storms are triggered by solar activity, and travel at incredible speeds to the Earth, arriving in just 24 to 48 hours.

There have been three such storms in relatively recent times — one in September of 1859, the 1921 storm, and in March 1989.

Records on the 1859 storm are limited, but the 20th century storms are well-documented.

Love explained that railroads used telegraph systems for managing the trains. Telegraph (and later telephone) lines ran alongside railroad tracks.

And the rock underneath the tracks doesn't conduct elec-

tricity very well.

That uncontrolled voltage has to go somewhere, and in the New York Railroad storm it went into the telegraph system.

Operators noticed the equipment was getting hot. Ultimately three fires broke out. One of them destroyed the station in Brewster, N.Y.

Amazingly, nobody was killed.

Radio, telegraph and telephone systems were disrupted across the U.S.

The March 1989 storm knocked out the power grid for the Canadian province of Quebec.

Love said a future electromagnetic superstorm would likely cause significant damage to civilian and military satellites, widespread disruption of GPS and radio communications, and widespread power outages.

"Possibly for months," he added.

Love showed photos of a burned-out transformer in the 1989 storm. He noted that restoring power "isn't just flipping a switch." Transformers, he continued, are custom-built for specific parts of the power grid. Replacing them is not a simple or quick job.

Love's unit within the USGS has 12 full-time employees who study past events and work on ways to mitigate or avoid superstorm damage in the future.

The work involves space science, geology and engineering.

He showed maps indicating areas of the continental U.S. and their relative susceptibility to geomagnetic storms, with the most vulnerable areas in

the upper Midwest (Minnesota, North Dakota) and the Eastern seaboard. Much of the southeast and southwest sections of the country have yet to be mapped.

He concluded that there is a lot of work to be done to "integrate studies of natural geoelectric hazards with studies of power-grid vulnerability so that proper mitigation can be performed, all so as to improve grid resilience."

## HVRHS graduation and top students

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Housatonic Valley Regional High School Principal Ian Strevver announced Monday, April 5, that the valedictorian of the Class of 2021 is Charlotte Clulow of Salisbury, and the salutatorian is Mia Tittman, also of Salisbury.

Strevver told the Region One Board of Education that the high school graduation is scheduled for Thursday, June 17, in the grassy oval

in front of the school. (Last year, graduation was held at Lime Rock Park because of pandemic safety concerns.)

The high school has rented a large tent for a two-week period in June to accommodate graduation, FFA and other senior class events.

Strevver said the school is waiting for guidelines from the state regarding the logistics of the graduation ceremony (i.e., social distancing, masks, number of spectators).

## New director (and appeal for funds) for musical theater

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The new director of the Housatonic Musical Theatre Society (HMTS), Michael Baldwin, was introduced to the Region One Board of Education during the April 5 board meeting.

Outgoing HMTS mainstay Lori Belter said that she, Michael Berkeley and Pamela Chassin were delighted to "pass the torch" to Baldwin, a graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School and current director of education and associate artistic director at the Sharon Playhouse.

Jill Cannon (HVRHS Class of 2014) and senior Charlotte Clulow spoke about the value of their experience working with HMTS.

Cannon described her teenage self as "introverted" and credited her theater work for

providing "opportunity and space to develop confidence." (Cannon said she ended up getting a theater degree and is pursuing acting as a profession.)

Clulow said she considers the theater program "the most meaningful experience" of her time at HVRHS.

Baldwin, cheerfully acknowledging that he was leading up to an appeal for additional funding, said there are multiple benefits to theater programs: improved academic performance; appeal to eighth-grade students deciding between HVRHS and other options; increased engagement in school; developing social skills (or "exercising their empathy

muscles," as Baldwin put it); and the fun factor.

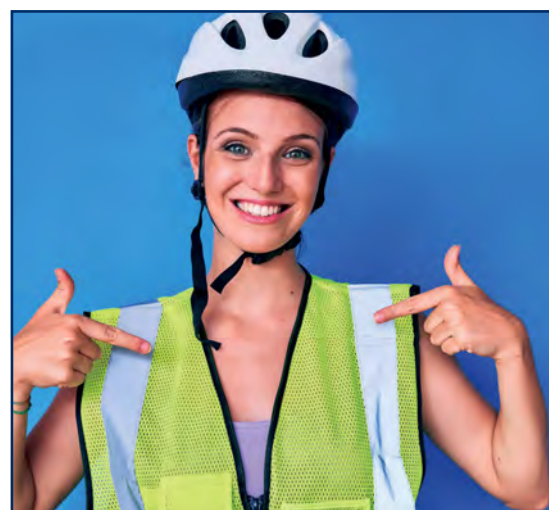
"Theater breeds joy," Baldwin said.

Belter said she would like to see the Region One contribution to HMTS increased over the next three to five years.

There was some discussion among the board members about funding. The board was reluctant to change the proposed budget for 2021-22, especially with the public hearing on the budget proposal coming up later that week (see above).

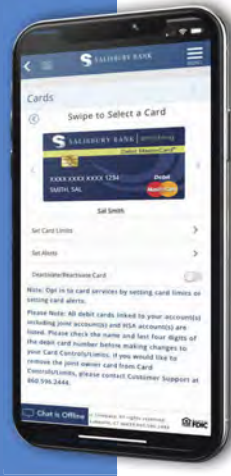
Region One Business Manager Sam Herrick said he would meet with Baldwin and see if there is some money that could be reallocated to HMTS in the short term.

"Theater breeds joy."  
 Michael Baldwin, director of the  
 Housatonic Musical Theatre Society



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## In The Journal this week

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 OBITUARIES ..... A4-5    VIEWPOINT..... B4  
 LEGAL NOTICES ..... A5    CLASSIFIEDS..... B5  
 COMPASS..... B1-2    SPECIALIST..... B6



Special Banner  
 SPRING CLEANUP..... A6

### Three-day forecast

Friday ..... Snow, high 43°/low 35°  
 Saturday ..... Cloudy, 55°/32°  
 Sunday ..... Cloudy, 63°/40°

## 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.

### DUI leads to collision with tree

On April 3 at approximately 2:30 p.m. on Housatonic Road in Salisbury a 2012 Subaru Outback driven by Matthew Paniagua, 23, of North Canaan collided with a tree off the shoulder of the road. Paniagua was treated by EMTs for lacerations to his arm. He was charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs and failure to maintain the proper lane. He was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on May 10.

### Forgery

On April 3 at approximately 8:40 p.m. at a residence on Route 63 in Falls Village, Troop B served Kevin Titus, 65, of Falls Village a warrant for forgery in the second degree. He was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on May 12.

### DUI leads to driving through construction

On April 5 at approximately 7:45 p.m. at the intersection of Salmon Kill Road and Route 44 in Salisbury a motor vehicle was observed traveling through a closed construction site where Eversource workers were repairing a broken utility pole with loose wires. The driver, Andrew Ryan Davis, 25, of Lakeville was charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs, reckless driving and operating an unregistered motor vehicle. Davis was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on May 17.

### Disorderly conduct

On April 8 at approximately 10:30 p.m. Nicholas Brewer, 40, of North Canaan was served a warrant at his residence and charged with disorderly conduct. He was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on April 9.

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).

## Vaccines at boys school for Salisbury residents

SALISBURY —The Salisbury School boys boarding school will host a Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic for Salisbury residents ages 16 and up on Saturday, May 8 (first dose), and Saturday, May 29 (second dose), between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Recognizing the difficulty that residents are experienc-

ing in scheduling appointments, Salisbury School Director of Health Services Beth Hammond has been working in coordination with Salisbury Director of Recreation and Senior Services Lisa McAuliffe and First Selectman Curtis Rand to secure a clinic for residents of Salisbury.

"The Town of Salisbury has always been such a great partner to the local independent schools," Hammond said, "and Salisbury School is honored to be able to host this event for its neighbors. As a lifelong resident of Salisbury, I'm proud to help the School

in supporting the health of the greater community."

Preregistration is required and information will be posted on the Town of Salisbury website at [www.salisburyct.us](http://www.salisburyct.us). For more information, contact McAuliffe at 860-435-5186 or [lmcauliffe@salisburyct.us](mailto:lmcauliffe@salisburyct.us).

## Sign up now for spring sports

SHARON — Sharon Parks and Recreation in cooperation with Region One Parks and Recreation is now taking registrations for spring programs that will commence on Saturday, June 5. Programs include T-ball, Farm League Baseball, Minor League Baseball, Little League Baseball and softball. All participants are asked to

register by May 17 at [www.sharonparksandrecreation.org](http://www.sharonparksandrecreation.org) (where more program details are available).

Summer programs are being planned now; so far they include Challenger Soccer Camp from June 28 to July 2; registration is now open.

For more information, call 860-364-1400 or go to [www.sharon.rec.ctr@snet.net](http://www.sharon.rec.ctr@snet.net).

## Time to register for kindergarten

Area schools will soon be registering new students for kindergarten for the 2021-22 school year.

Cornwall Consolidated School kindergarten registration will be held during the month of May.

All children who reach age 5 on or before the first day of January 2022 are eligible.

A parent should call the school office at 860-672-6617 to schedule a time for their child/children to visit the school.

Salisbury Central School registration is scheduled for Monday, April 26, and Tuesday, April 27. All children born during the calendar year 2016 should be registered.

Call Pat in the school office at 860-435-9871 to schedule an appointment.

Lee H. Kellogg School in Falls Village will hold kindergarten registration on Monday, May 10, and Wednesday, May 12, from 9 a.m. to noon.

All children who live in the Town of Canaan (Falls Village) and who were born in 2016 or earlier are eligible.

Registration will take about an hour and a half and will take place socially distanced, under a large tent outdoors.

Call the school office at 860-824-7791 to schedule an appointment.

Additionally, Kellogg offers a tuition option for children living outside of Falls Village. Call Principal Alexandra Juch for more information.

Sharon Center School early kindergarten/kindergarten registration is for Sharon children born in 2016. Call 860-364-5153 to register your child. Kindergarten registration will be Tuesday, May 4, and Wednesday, May 5.

For all schools, bring the child's/children's official immunization record, birth certificate and proof of residency on the day of registration.

## Correcting Errors

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

## Don't Miss This Week's Special Inserts! Sales and more!

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**TUESDAY, APRIL 20 AT 7 P.M.**



**Dr. Robert D. Putnam**  
 SPEAKER  
 Peter and Isabel Malkin  
 Professor of Public Policy,  
 Harvard Kennedy School



**Shaylyn Romney Garrett**  
 SPEAKER  
 Writer and Founding Contributor,  
 Weave: The Social Fabric Project  
 of The Aspen Institute



**Peter Taylor**  
 MODERATOR  
 President,  
 Berkshire Taconic  
 Community Foundation

Economic, social and political trends can influence the extent to which Americans prioritize putting themselves first or moving ahead together. The co-authors of *The Upswing: How America Came Together a Century Ago and How We Can Do It Again* share analysis and stories from the Gilded Age to today to inspire thinking about the future, and a student panel offers ideas for changing course.

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# Our Towns

## Cell tower proposal is now online

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The town and education budget proposals are available on the town website, First Selectman Curtis Rand noted at the Monday, April 5, meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Residents are invited to comment by email, letter or phone.

The Board of Finance will hold a public hearing on Zoom on Monday, April 19, 7:30 p.m.

Rand said the town will use the same procedure for final approval of the budgets as last year, under Gov. Ned Lamont's executive orders regarding public gatherings and town meetings, which have been extended until May 20. The selectmen will use their emergency authority to vote on the budgets, rather than try and hold an annual town budget meeting.

The town website (www.salisburycyct.us) has been completely redesigned. Rand thanked Emily Egan for her work on the new site.

### Memorial Day parade

Selectman Chris Williams said there will not be a Memorial Day parade this year. "We're not close enough to the

end of the pandemic," he said.

### Wake Robin cell tower

Rand noted that the paperwork regarding a proposed cell phone tower at 106 Sharon Road (the Wake Robin Inn) had just arrived at Town Hall. The proposal is on the town website and hard copies are available (call ahead with a request).

The proposal is docket number 501 on the Connecticut Siting Council website (www.portal.ct.gov/CSC, click on "pending matters").

No public hearing date has been set.

### Food waste plan

The pilot program for removing food waste from the garbage at the Salisbury-Sharon Transfer Station is underway. Rand noted that the trash-to-electricity plant in Hartford is going to go offline next year, at which point towns like Salisbury will have to ship municipal solid waste out of state.

"There's got to be a better way," he said.

Removing food scraps from the garbage stream will reduce the overall weight significantly.

Rand said internal discussions are underway about reopening Town Hall to the public.

## A gift for 27 years of town service

By Leila Hawken

NORTH CANAAN — The town turned out to celebrate the retirement of Paul Roy from his position with the town's highway department, culminating with the surprise presentation of his favorite piece of town equipment. An extensive Wave Parade passed by Roy's home on Sunday, April 11 — the final piece being the delivery of a well-used Scag mower.

Commenting on the event celebrating Roy's 27 years of service, First Selectman Charles Perotti said on Monday morning that 75 vehicles took part in the parade, including four ambulances, six vehicles from the North Canaan Fire Department and ambulance crew (where Roy has volunteered for many years), three town trucks, trucks from the Falls Village Fire Department and their public works department, assorted local farm vehicles and lots of cars bearing well-wishers. A town truck with a trailer bore the mower to cap off the festivities.

During Roy's tenure with the North Canaan highway department, he rose to the position of second in command.

In presenting the mower, Perotti joked that instead of a plaque that day, Roy would be presented with his three-wheel mower in exactly the condition it was when he used it: well-worn, held together with tape wrapped around the handlebars and essential bungee cords.

"He liked that one," Perotti said of Roy's relationship with his mower.



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN ALLYN

First Selectman Charles Perotti, with cap, presented Paul Roy, wearing sunglasses, with his favorite piece of equipment, a Scag lawnmower, on the occasion of Roy's retirement from the town crew.

## River access plans will honor Fred Ruggles

By Leila Hawken

NORTH CANAAN — In tribute to long-time resident and noted hydrologist Fred Ruggles Jr., the Board of Selectmen agreed to name the proposed Housatonic River boating access point Ruggles Landing, an action taken at the regular meeting on Monday, April 5, by Zoom.

Following the decision, the selectmen will ask the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to name the proposed site for the veteran of World War II, who died in 2013 at the age of 90.

Since moving to North Canaan in 1980, he had been an active member of the Housatonic River Commission and served as well on the town's Inland Wetlands Commission. With 40 years of experience as a hydrologist for the U.S. Geological Survey, his devotion to the town and the river was deserving of the honor.

In making the naming proposal, Selectman Christian Allyn said that the choice was "near and dear to my heart," adding that Ruggles was not a town native, but he became a native.

An operations plan for the landing site is drafted and ready for DEEP consideration. Allyn said that the plan is still fluid and open to DEEP input. One question to be answered is whether the river access is wide enough at the site to serve fire department rescue boats.

Selectman Craig Whiting spoke from a fire department perspective and said the town does not have a rescue boat, but in connection with the proposed access, the town might want to invest in water rescue training and equipment. Allyn suggested that the town might also add rapid water rescue training to any plan.

River access would provide boating and fishing opportunities along the 5-mile stretch north of the Falls Village dam. In that stretch, the river is tranquil flat-water, ideal for paddling trips and drifting downstream in a boat, canoe or kayak. The calm water is also good for fishing.

Plans to be coordinated with the DEEP would involve removal of the existing structure on the property, some grading and brush removal at the access point, and installation of gates and fencing, all within the purview of various DEEP departments. The commercially zoned property is on Route 41

and was formerly home to a Masonic lodge.

The 2021-22 budget planning process is progressing, with the Board of Finance expected to meet on Wednesday, April 14, to approve the draft of the town budget. At that point a schedule for public input will be set, including a public hearing and a Zoom meeting.

First Selectman Charles Perotti reminded residents who wish to provide comments on any aspects of the budget to attend the remote budget workshops.

## A bridge conundrum

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — Aesthetics at the Cogswell Road bridge culvert, where guardrail work was done last summer, continues as an issue for residents.

Several attended the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, April 6, conducted by Zoom.

Some expressed opinions at the meeting. Most were willing to give the problem's resolution some time to develop into the best solution.

Some design ideas favor removal of the galvanized steel rails and substituting wood beams while utilizing the posts that are sealed in cement; others

are considering paint colors.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway is looking into whether it is even possible to paint the steel and have the paint adhere.

Bruce Bennett, a town resident and landscape designer, saw the issue as one of how to make the bridge better and "less silvery." He felt that galvanized steel can be painted over successfully.

Wanting to propose more than rail removal and painting, town resident and professional garden writer Jane Garmey said that the neighbors will convene and present a plan to the town.

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AND THE VERY BAD



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FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2021  
7:30 P.M.

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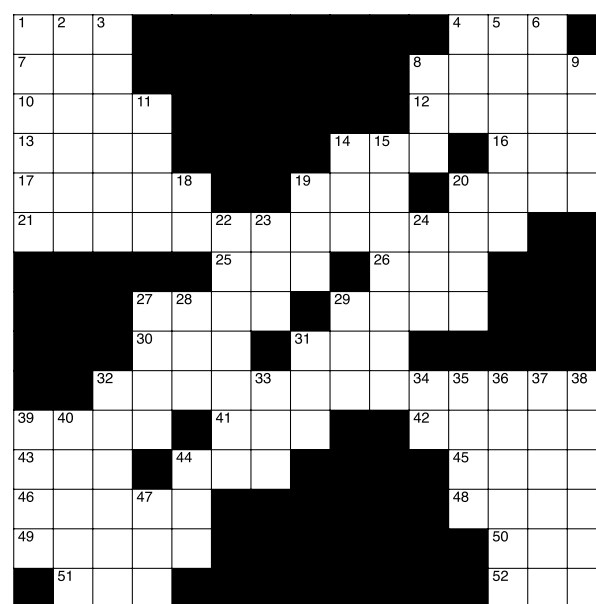
## Brain Teasers

### CLUES ACROSS

- Ocean surface indicator (abbr.)
- American time
- Satisfaction
- Diving duck
- Very small amount
- Metrical units
- An ignorant or foolish person
- Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- It may sting you
- Turn outward
- Perform on stage
- "CSI" actor George
- Localities
- Make a choice
- Indicates position
- One of Thor's names
- Indian musical rhythmic pattern
- "The Raven" author
- Take in solid food
- Legendary QB
- Sorrels
- Organization of nations
- Texas pharmaceutical company
- Mathematical term
- Expression of disappointment
- Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
- Hide away
- Salad restaurant
- Daughters of Boreas (mythology)
- Men's fashion accessory
- Political action committee
- Unhappy

### CLUES DOWN

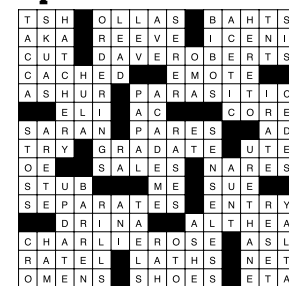
- Make unhappy
- Heard of the confusion of
- Capital of Taiwan
- Fiddler crab
- Brazilian dances
- Fit with device to assist breathing
- Brother or sister
- Pastries
- "Lone Survivor" director Peter
- Boat type (abbr.)
- Apertures (biology)
- Suffix
- Creative endeavor
- Icelandic poem
- Spanish dances
- Town in Central Italy



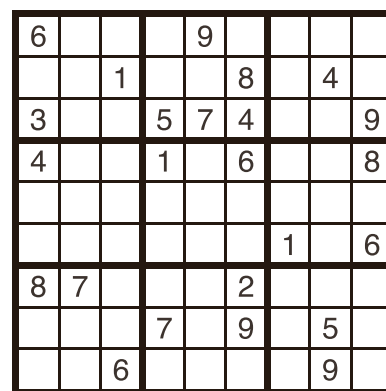
- Cars need it
- Mimics
- Rocky peak
- Cigarette (slang)
- One point south of due east
- Soap actress Braun
- Large domesticated wild ox
- Island nation
- Appear
- Addictive practices
- Loss of control of one's body
- Type of poster
- Greek mountain
- Funny person
- One and only
- Pouch

Look for the solution in next week's issue.

### April 8 Solution

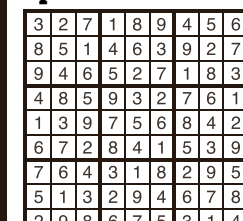


### Sudoku



Level: Intermediate

### April 8 Solution



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# OBITUARIES

## Janice M. Fenn

MILLERTON — Janice M. Fenn, 72, a 39-year resident of the Village of Millerton, died unexpectedly on Wednesday, April 7, 2021, at her home in the village.



Janice had a long career with New York State Developmental Disabilities Services Office, where she began as a development therapy aide at the Harlem Valley Psychiatric Center in Wingdale, N.Y., and ultimately retired from the Taconic Developmental Disabilities Services Office, Wassaic Campus, as a senior developmental aide.

Born July 14, 1948, in Beacon, N.Y., she was the daughter of the late Violet (Quirk) and Hubert "Hubie" Jackson.

Janice was a graduate of the Lady Cliff Academy in Peekskill, N.Y.

On June 19, 1982, at St. Luke's Church in Beacon, she married Roland H. Fenn.

Mr. Fenn died on Feb. 12, 2013.

Janice was a longtime parishioner of St. Patrick's Church in Millerton and Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia, and she belonged to the local CSEA.

In her spare time Jan volunteered with the Millerton American Legion Post #178 Auxiliary and could often be found socializing at the Talk of the Towne Deli in Millerton or be seen walking her beloved dog, Freckles, on the sidewalks in the village.

Janice had a sweet disposition and a kind heart. She will be deeply missed by her family and her many friends.

Janice is survived by her dear brother, Peter Jackson and his wife, Linda, of Mamaroneck, N.Y.; her loving sister, Nancie Lucariello and her husband, James, of Hopewell Junction, N.Y.; two nieces, Alexis "Lexi" Lucariello and Lindsay Jackson; her nephew, Christopher Jackson; a stepson, Milton "Mic" Fenn and his family; and several nieces and nephews and many friends.

In addition to her parents and husband she was also predeceased by her beloved dog, Pal.

A graveside service and burial took place on Wednesday, April 14, at St. Joachim Cemetery in Beacon. Clergy from the St. Joachim Church will officiate and offer committal blessings and prayers at that time.

Memorial donations may be made to the Millerton Legion Post #178, 155 Route 44, Millerton, NY 12546; or to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Upstate NY Chapter, 421 New Karner Road, Suite 6, Albany, NY 12205.

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

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton.

## Mary Tracey Woodhouse

NORTH CANAAN — Mary Tracey Woodhouse, 97, of North Canaan, died on April 8, 2021.

Born on Nov. 30, 1923, she was the daughter of the late Mary (Devery) and James Tracey.

One of five children, Mary grew up in Hartford. She had many wonderful memories of living in a neighborhood with a large extended Irish family. She was the last remaining sibling.

Mary lived a long and happy life bringing up her family in West Hartford and then spending 20 years of retirement on Cape Cod.

She was part of the Orleans Quilting Guild, spending many hours with friends creating beautiful works of art. Her quilts were displayed in various art shows and the local library. Many of those quilts are in the homes of her children and grandchildren.

She and her husband moved back to Connecticut in 2007 to be near their children.

She was a loving grandmother, always ready to help, listen, bake cookies and be a supportive shoulder.

She leaves behind her son, Stephen Woodhouse and his wife, Patty, of Hampton, N.H.; her daughter, Pat Whelan, and her husband, Rob, of Sharon; her daughter, Jamie Butka and her husband, Tom, of Cranston, R.I. She will be sorely missed by her grandchildren, James Woodhouse, Kate Partridge and her husband, Brian, Ian Whelan and his wife, Nora, Kevin Whelan and his wife, Alyssa, Tommy Butka, Rachel Butka and her husband, Gil

DOVER PLAINS — Brian William Franks, 60, of Pleasant Valley, N.Y., was called Home by the Lord suddenly and unexpectedly on Jan. 26, 2021, at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie.

Brian was born on June 7, 1960, in Sharon, the son of Barbara A. (Draper) and William "Bill" G. Franks of Dover Plains.

He married Evelyn R. Arnfield on May 25, 1985, at the Community United Methodist Church in Poughkeepsie. They shared 35-and-a-half years of marriage together, always proclaiming to Evelyn, "It was love at first sight."

Brian was educated in local elementary and parochial schools. He graduated from Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie in June 1978. He then went to Paul Smith's College, Paul Smiths, N.Y., and he received his AAS degree for Forest Technician and Surveying in June 1980.

Brian began his career in land surveying in the office of Harry J. Bly, LS in Millbrook. By February 1989, Brian received the professional title of Land Surveyor and opened his own in-home business in the early 1990s.

His career spanned more than 30 years providing for all aspects of the land surveying business in meticulous detail for clients throughout Dutchess County.

Brian deeply loved his two sons and he was passionate about family gatherings as well as vacationing with both family and friends. Brian possessed a great sense of humor and the telling of a good story that was always shared in laughter, especially when reminiscing about his childhood adventures. He especially enjoyed favorite destination spots with his family

that included the Eastern Sea Coast; Lancaster, Pa. (Sight and Sound Theatre); Myrtle Beach, S.C.; and Rudd Pond State Park in Millerton. A "once in a lifetime" trip received as a gift was taken to Maui, Hawaii, in 2018.

Brian loved animals, especially his Irish setter dogs. Over the years, six Irish setters were in the Franks' household. In the early years, Brian was an accomplished dog trainer traveling with his first Irish Setter, Meghan, CD, CDX, to many different locations throughout the Northeast participating in obedience trial competitions. One of his proudest accomplishments was when Meghan received the Award of Canine Distinction (Dog World Magazine) earning three consecutive high scores of 195 or higher as she obtained her CD. At that time, he was also involved in Irish Setter Rescue, he was a member of the Mid-Hudson Kennel Club, and he was a dedicated volunteer at the Dutchess County SPCA, Hyde Park, N.Y.

Brian enjoyed a variety of sports, but football was his favorite sporting event, especially as family gathered together either by watching games on television or attending stadium games. Favorite teams included Penn State Football (college) and the Minnesota Vikings (professional). He also enjoyed playing golf. He had several opportunities to marshal at professional golf tournaments with his brother-in-law, Dave, including an opportunity to attend the Master's Tournament in Augusta, Ga., in 2015.

Brian enjoyed other activities that included hiking (early years), cooking and barbecuing, listening to music (huge fan of John Denver; Christian music), reading novels, and enthusiastically watching John

Wayne movies over and over again. One of his most treasured activities was deer hunting every fall with his dad, Bill, something that he had done since he was a young boy.

Brian loved his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He cherished daily devotional and Bible study time with his wife, Evelyn. One of Brian's special gifts was his ability to lead in prayer, beautifully spoken, offering comfort and solace to family, friends and strangers alike.

Throughout his childhood, Brian attended St. James Episcopal Church in Dover Plains, serving as an acolyte for many years. He was a former Sunday School Teacher, Pleasant Valley Food Pantry Co-Director, Ecumenical Minister (early years), Deacon (mid-years) and Stephen Minister (recent years).

Brian currently attended Calvary Chapel of the Hudson Valley in Poughkeepsie and formerly the First Presbyterian Church of Pleasant Valley and formerly the Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church.

Brian will be remembered for his generosity of spirit and his caring for others, particu-

larly the elderly, that exemplified his faith. Brian is survived by his wife, Evelyn (Arnfield) Franks; a son, Andrew (Nicholas) Franks and a son, Ethan (Thomas) Franks; his parents, William G. and Barbara A. Franks; his sister, Nancy A. Franks; his sister, Mary Beth Franks-Begor and her husband, Scott; his brother-in-law, Alan E. Arnfield Jr. and his wife, Jenny; his brother-in-law, David P. Arnfield and his partner, Julia M. Checchia; many nieces and nephews as well as grand-nieces and grand-nephews. He will be missed by all including a large extended family as well as many friends. Brian was predeceased by a sister, Mary Jean Franks. Arrangements were handled by the Timothy P. Doyle Funeral Home in Poughkeepsie. A Celebration of a Life Service was held April 10 at Calvary Chapel of the Hudson Valley.

Memorial donations may be made to Calvary Chapel of the Hudson Valley, Care Net Pregnancy Center of the Hudson Valley, or the Dutchess County SPCA. To leave an online condolence, go to [www.doylefuneralhome.com](http://www.doylefuneralhome.com).



## Worship Services

Week of April 18, 2021

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

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

**Falls Village Congregational Church**  
16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village  
10:00 a.m. Family Worship  
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour  
A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!!  
860-824-0194

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT  
Rev. Paul Christopherson  
SUNDAY SERVICE  
10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)  
In-Person and on You-Tube  
[www.stjohnssalisbury.org](http://www.stjohnssalisbury.org)  
860-435-9290

**Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon**  
9 South Main, Sharon CT  
Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 AM  
Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker  
All welcome to join us  
860-364-5260  
[www.christchurchsharon.org](http://www.christchurchsharon.org)

**North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC**  
Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people  
Pastor Savage Frieze  
172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT  
Worship services Sundays at 10 AM  
AT THE PILGRIM HOUSE  
30 GRANITE AVE, CANAAN:  
FISHES & LOAVES Food Pantry and CLOSETS for clothing  
Tuesdays from 5 to 7  
and Thursdays from noon to 2  
[www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational](http://www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational)

**Greenwoods Community Church, MA**  
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  
[www.greenwoodschurch.com](http://www.greenwoodschurch.com)

**The Sharon United Methodist Church**  
112 Upper Main Street,  
North End of Sharon Green  
Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care  
No Sunday School in Summer  
The Rev. Margaret Laemmel  
860-364-5634  
[sharonumc5634@att.net](mailto:sharonumc5634@att.net)

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**  
40 Leedsville Road  
Amenia Union, NY  
SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 ONLINE  
Visit our website for links  
Rev. AJ Stack  
845-373-9161  
[www.stthomasamenia.com](http://www.stthomasamenia.com)  
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**Trinity Episcopal Church**  
484 Lime Rock Rd., Lime Rock  
Virtual Sunday service 10:30 AM  
Trinity Lime Rock Facebook page  
Virtual Coffee Hour & Bible Study  
Rev. Heidi Truax  
[trinity@trinitylimerock.org](mailto:trinity@trinitylimerock.org)  
(860) 435-2627  
[www.trinitylimerock.org](http://www.trinitylimerock.org)

**The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall**  
Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9am  
Email Rev. Mary Gates at: [mmgates125@gmail.com](mailto:mmgates125@gmail.com)  
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!

**Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT**  
Join our virtual service on Sunday, May 9 at 10:30 a.m.  
For information, contact Jo Loi at [jokialoi@gmail.com](mailto:jokialoi@gmail.com)  
All are Welcome

**The Smithfield Presbyterian Church**  
656 Smithfield Valley Rd.  
Route 83, Amenia, NY  
Services every Sunday 10 a.m.  
[www.thesmithfieldchurch.org](http://www.thesmithfieldchurch.org)  
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**The Lakeville United Methodist Church**  
319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039  
9:30 a.m. Worship Service  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.  
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The Rev. Margaret Laemmel  
860-435-9496  
[Lakevillemethodist@snet.net](mailto:Lakevillemethodist@snet.net)

**Sharon Congregational Church**  
25 Main Street, Sharon, CT  
Visit our website [sharoncongregationalchurch.org](http://sharoncongregationalchurch.org) for current online sermons.  
Bible Study Guides also available by request: [info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org](mailto:info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org)  
Or contact us at 860-364-5002

**ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH**  
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 am,  
Immaculate Conception Church  
DAILY MASS SCHEDULE  
Wednesday 6pm  
St. Joseph Chapel or Church  
Thursday 8am  
Immaculate Conception Church  
Friday 8am  
Church of St. Mary  
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**SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH**  
860-927-3003  
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St. Bridget, Cornwall Bridge  
MASS SCHEDULE  
SATURDAY VIGIL  
4 PM - St. Bridget  
SUNDAY MASSES  
8 AM - St. Bernard  
10 AM - Sacred Heart  
WEEKDAY MASSES  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & First Friday  
9 AM - Sacred Heart  
Face masks required

**Canaan United Methodist Church**  
2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT  
11 a.m. Worship Service  
"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"  
Rev. Lee Gangaware  
860-824-5534  
[canaanct-umc.com](mailto:canaanct-umc.com)  
[canaanctumc@gmail.com](mailto:canaanctumc@gmail.com)

**Millerton United Methodist Church**  
6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812  
Millerton, NY 12546  
Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 9:30 A.M.  
518-789-3138

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For more obituaries,  
see page A5



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## James M. O'Malley

MILLERTON — James M. O'Malley, 87, a 32-year area resident, died April 7, 2021, at Vassar Bros. Medical Center in Poughkeepsie.



Mr. O'Malley worked for Shell Oil Company in Brooklyn, N.Y., for more than 27 years. Jim began his career at Shell Oil working as a delivery truck driver and through much hard work and dedication ultimately retired as an office manager in 1989.

Following his retirement, he and his wife, Judy, sold their home in Flushing, Queens, and relocated to the Village of Millerton. Prior to living in Flushing, the O'Malleys were longtime residents of White-stone, N.Y.

Born Nov. 11, 1933, in Man-hattan, he was the son of the late Catherine (Fitzpatrick) and Martin E. O'Malley. Jim graduated from Bayside High School with the Class of 1952. On Oct. 22, 1955, at St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Bayside, Queens, he married Judith A. Goeller. Mrs. O'Malley passed away on Jan. 25, 2021.

Jim was a longtime parish-ioner of St. Martin of Tours Church of St. Mary in Lakeville; he served on the Village Board in Millerton for many years; he was a life member and past president of the Millerton Lions Club, where he served for nearly five terms.

In his spare time he enjoyed spending time with his family, maintaining his beautiful

home and yard, watching his beloved New York Yankees on television and wood-working in his shop.

Jim enjoyed life in the Village of Millerton and he could often be found talking with friends and acquaintances at the Post Office and various other locations when he was out and about. He will be dearly missed by his loving family and his many friends.

Jim is survived by his son, Stephen O'Malley and his wife, Susan, of South Salem, N.Y.; three grandchildren, Brianna and Amanda O'Malley and Melissa Hartlipp; and several nieces and nephews and many friends. He was predeceased by a daughter, Ellen O'Malley, on Nov. 10, 2013.

Private visitation will be held on Saturday, April 24, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton. A graveside service and burial will follow at noon at St. Mary's Cemetery on Cobble Road in Salisbury; friends and family members are invited to attend.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 7023, Merrifield, VA 22116; or Lions Clubs International Foundation, Dept. 4547, Carol Stream, IL 60422 in memory of Past President James M. O'Malley.

To send an online condolence or flowers to the family, go to [www.conklinfuneral-home.com](http://www.conklinfuneral-home.com).

## Diane Lloyd-Smith Hewat

SALISBURY — Diane Lloyd-Smith Hewat, long-standing Salisbury resident, died peacefully at home on March 26, 2021. She was 92.



The youngest of four sisters, she attended Foxcroft School in Virginia, which she hated. At Bennington College, on a blind date, she met Donald Hewat whom, after a diversionary trip to Paris arranged by her mother, she married. In 1953 they moved from New York to Salisbury and established a home on Selleck Hill that over time included a small milking herd, five children, hundreds of houseguests, and a succession of noble, affectionate shepherds.

Resolutely liberal-hearted and sensitive to injustice of all kinds, she was fiercely committed to the causes of civil, social, women's and gay rights. She attended marches against the Vietnam war, years of weekly protests against nuclear proliferation, and campaigned tirelessly for progressive candidates both local and national. She began and ran the local chapter of PFLAG.

She was passionately committed to Salisbury. Over her 68 years in the community, she supported an extraordinary number of local organizations and endeavors, often serving as a board member or volunteer in addition to her charitable contributions. She especially valued programs concerning the town's youth, the Salisbury Summer Program and the ro-

botics program at Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

Intrigued by the robotics classes, in part because they included so many young women, she gave an essential gift toward the building of the Mahoney-Hewat Science and Technology Center. In doing so, she provided an opportunity for students of science that she wished had been available to her.

She had a quiet, understated demeanor, modest tastes, and a stylish, artistic eye. A member of the local Fiber Arts guild, she developed a painstaking technique with silk thread — 100 to the inch — weaving refined scarves of classical simplicity and elegance. Though she regularly downplayed her skill, imagining faults where there were none, weaving was one of her great joys.

She surrounded herself with flowers, both those she grew and Anemones, which she adored. She was a consummate hostess, welcoming all guests with an easy grace, sympathetic attention and delicious food.

Generous, modest to a fault, fair-minded, soft-spoken, she rarely spoke against another — with the exception of one local nemesis and the several cross-party presidents she worked to unseat.

She is survived by five fortunate, grateful children, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A date to celebrate her life, and that of her husband's, has yet to be determined.

## OBITUARIES

### Salvador Molella

MILLBROOK — Salvador Molella, 92, of Boynton Beach, Fla., and a former resident of Millbrook, passed away on March 26, 2021, at his home.

He was born on Dec. 24, 1928, to Marietta (Spagnola) and Francesco P. Molella

He is survived by his loving sisters, Pierina Pannoza and Filomena "Fanny" Manzi; and many nieces and nephews, who were very special to him.

He was predeceased by his parents; his brothers, Ross, Dominic, Frank, Armand and Paul Molella; and his sisters, Vinny Farley, Mary Magnarella and Rose Mikula.

After graduation from Millbrook Memorial High School, Sal served in the United States Army from 1950-1952. He was then employed by IBM for 20 years, followed by the Thomas Carvel Country Club for many years. He continued his association with the Carvel

enterprise through the Thomas and Agnes Carvel Foundation, and he served as a vice president and director of the foundation until his death.

Through the foundation Sal was able to help many organizations including the Town of Washington Recreation and St. Joseph Immaculate Conception Church in Millbrook.

Sal was an avid golfer, winning many golf tournaments around the country. He had 12 holes-in-one, and was inducted into the Dutchess County Golf Hall of Fame in 1991.

The family is very grateful for the friendship and help given to Sal by his close friends Sam and Norma DeOto.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at St. Joseph's Immaculate Conception Church in Millbrook on April 17 at 10 a.m. Interment in St. Joseph's cemetery will immediately follow.



### New hours for Quality Thrift

KENT — The Quality Thrift Shop in Kent is now open Tuesdays through Saturdays , with spring clothing. The hours will continue to be noon to 4 p.m. and COVID-19 restrictions will apply: masks must be worn, and only five people are allowed in the store at a time. Hand sanitizer will be provided at the door.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### Legal Notice

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing on Special Permit Application #2021-0128 by Churchill Building Company, LLC for a new detached apartment on a single-family residential lot at 136 Interlaken Road, Lakeville Map 39, Lot 21 per Section 208 of the Salisbury Zoning Regulations. The hearing will be held on Monday, April 19, 2021 at 6:45 PM. There is no physical location for this meeting; it will be held virtually via Zoom where interested persons can listen to & speak on the matter. The application, agenda and meeting instructions will be listed at [www.salisburyct.us](http://www.salisburyct.us). Written comments may be submitted to the Land Use Office Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, P.O. Box 548, Salisbury, CT or via email to [aconroy@salisburyct.us](mailto:aconroy@salisburyct.us). Paper copies may be reviewed Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:30 PM.

Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission  
Martin Whalen, Secretary  
04-08-21  
04-15-21

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF EDWIN T. PALKO Late of Salisbury (21-00125)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated April 1, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:  
Robain Dionne  
30 Ore Mine Road  
PO Box 1837  
Lakeville, CT 06039  
Beth L. McGuire  
Chief Clerk  
04-15-21

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF PAMELA M. BLOODWORTH Late of Sheffield, MA AKA Pamela Bloodworth AKA Pamela Murray Bloodworth (21-0146)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate,

District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated March 23, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:  
Penelope Bloodworth  
c/o Michael Peter Citrin  
Drury, Patz & Citrin, LLP  
7 Church Street  
PO Box 101  
Canaan, CT 06018  
Beth L. McGuire  
Chief Clerk  
04-15-21

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF BARBARA ELLIOT NILES Late of Salisbury AKA BARBARA NILES (21-00113)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated March 25, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:  
Bethany M. Woods  
c/o Stephan K. Gellman  
Shipman & Goodwin, LLP  
One Constitution Plaza  
Hartford, CT 06103  
Meghan Williams  
Assistant Clerk  
04-15-21

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF WILLIAM F. DOWNEY Late of New York AKA William Downey (21-00086)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated March 23, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:  
Claude A. Baum  
c/o Jennifer Dale Port  
Ivey Barnum & O'mara, LLC  
170 Mason Street  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
Meghan Williams  
Assistant Clerk  
04-15-21

For more obituaries, see page A4



PHOTO BY CAROLINE BURCHFIELD

### At least there wasn't ice on the water

For several years, students at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville have hosted a polar plunge to raise money for the Jane Lloyd Fund, which supports area residents who have cancer with their daily living expenses. Last year, COVID-19 forced the students to plunge remotely, all over the world.

This year, back on campus, they devised a COVID-safe system for plunging, approved by the school's medical team.

Sunday, April 11, was cold, gray and windy but, for almost two straight hours, close to 200 students plunged in the frigid water of Lake Wononscopomuc in Salisbury to raise more than \$1,500 for the Jane Lloyd Fund.

To learn more about the Jane Lloyd Fund, go to [www.thejanelloydfund.org](http://www.thejanelloydfund.org).

— Caroline Burchfield



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[www.berkshire.coop](http://www.berkshire.coop) | 413-528-9697

### Sharon budget meetings will be online beginning on April 20

SHARON — The Board of Finance will hold a special Zoom meeting on Tuesday, April 20, beginning at 6:30 p.m., to discuss any changes to the budgets as they are currently proposed. Those changes will be reflected on the proposed budgets to be posted on the town website on Wednesday, April 21.

An in-person public hearing is scheduled for Friday, April 30, when the Board of Finance will receive public comment.

The town meeting on the budget will be held in-person on Friday, May 14.



## GEER VILLAGE Senior Community

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With proper planning & precautions, Geer Lodge is now accepting applications for new residents. All the great services you are looking for and the peace of mind you will receive the best possible care.

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77 South Canaan Road, Canaan CT  
[www.geercares.org](http://www.geercares.org)

# Spring Cleanup

Spring has arrived and that means it's time to tackle some of many projects we've added to our lists throughout the winter. Whether you need landscaping, gardening, remodeling, building, general spring cleanup or ongoing maintenance, you can count on each of the businesses on this page to assist from start to finish. And when you call, let them know you saw their ad in *your* community weekly newspapers, The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Garden preparation in South Kent



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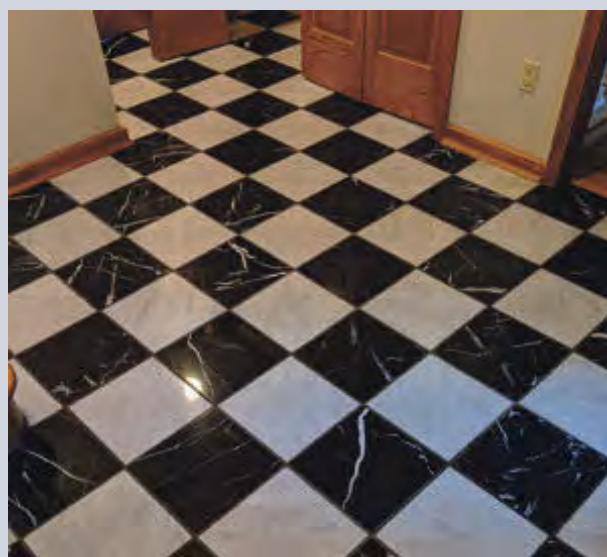


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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

ART: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

## Looking for America, For Love, for Innocence

Kenise Barnes, director of Kenise Barnes Fine Art in Kent, Conn., describes the inspiration for a show at her gallery until May 1: "The exhibition title is taken from the well-loved Simon and Garfunkel ballad recounting a bus trip across America, and the hours spent looking out the window as the landscapes slide by. The song and the exhibition share a sentiment of longing and searching for meaning. In the wake of the past year, I think we are yearning for the America that we remember in our mind's eye. "Michigan seems like a dream to me now..."

The show title is "We've all gone to look for America," a line from the almost operatic 1968 song "America," which captures a time that was more innocent, when a young couple could take off for a trip across the country in a Greyhound bus, sharing love, cigarettes, jokes and insecurities. None of it would (really) be possible today; the jokes they



COURTESY OF KENISE BARNES FINE ART, KENT, CONN.

Heat, beach, summer, freedom all glow from the canvas in Sophie Treppendahl's "Swimming in the Yuba," featured in the Kenise Barnes Fine Art gallery show in Kent, Conn., called "We've all gone to look for America."

share and the people they see might not even make sense to a modern generation who don't know what gabardine is and perhaps don't realize that bow ties are not meant to be clipped on.

Paintings in the show by Sophie Treppendahl in particular capture the feeling of being in the sun at the beach, in sneakers. No masks. Also in the show is work by David Konigsberg, Thomas Sarrantonio and

Francis Sills.

The gallery is open Thursday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m., and by appointment. To learn more, go to [www.kbfa.com](http://www.kbfa.com).

### SCOTT HETH AND AN AFTERNOON OF AMERICAN SONGBOOK JAZZ

Scott Heth, former head of the Audubon Center in Sharon, Conn., and a beloved local jazz musician, returns to the Tri-state region for a fundraising concert to support the Roeliff Jansen Community Library at Roeliff Jansen Park in Hillsdale, N.Y., on Sunday, April 25, at 3 p.m.

Heth will perform on keyboard, with Kris Jensen on saxophone and

Jay Bradley on percussion in an afternoon of American songbook jazz.

Bring your own lawn chair. Masks and social distancing are required.

For information on hours and events at the library, call 518-325-4101 or go to [www.roejanlibrary.org](http://www.roejanlibrary.org), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/roejanlibrary](http://www.facebook.com/roejanlibrary), or on Instagram at [www.instagram.com/roejanlibrary](http://www.instagram.com/roejanlibrary).

### A CONCERT TO SUPPORT MUSICIANS

A benefit concert for the New England Musicians Relief Fund will be held online on Sunday, April 18, at 7 p.m.

"Berkshire Sounds: A Bash to Bring Back Music to Western Massachusetts and the Hudson Valley" will be hosted by Signature Sounds and will feature musicians from across western Massachusetts and New York's Hudson Valley.

Artists performing as part of Berkshire Sounds include Aston Magna, Boston University Tanglewood Institute, Boston Sympho-

ny Orchestra musicians Rebecca Gitter and Julianne Lee, Chris Smither, Felipe Salles, Izzy Coffey, Izzy Heltai, John Medeski, Pamela Means, Peter Mulvey, Robin O'Herin, Ruby Mack, Samirah Evans, Todd Reynolds, Adam Rothberg and more. The show will also feature special messages from Arlo Guthrie and Tanglewood Festival Chorus conductor James Burton.

Watch the show at [www.signaturesounds.com/homesessions](http://www.signaturesounds.com/homesessions) as well as the YouTube and Facebook pages of the New England Musicians Relief Fund. There is no cost to view the stream, but donations are encouraged.

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### NATIONAL POETRY MONTH: HELEN KLEIN ROSS

## Poetry That Finds The Beauty in Ordinary Words

Found poetry has always fascinated me. The first poem I published was "Three Pages Found in a Bureau for Auction," sourced from three pages of stationery I discovered in a bureau I didn't buy — but I did take the pages, which made me feel guilty, although not enough to keep me from writing the poem.

Two of the pages were typewritten lists: "Daily Schedule" and "Weekly Schedule." These were daunting instructions to a maid, which included, "Wednesday, Your day off, Straighten up house before you Leave."

The last page was a heartrending note written in pencil. It began, "Dear Sir, I'm really very sorry but you see that I'm not the right person for the job ..." and ended with, "I could not wait until you got home because you are very sweet people and this is really hard for me. I hope you will find someone real soon. P.S. I also forgot to tell you a very important problem. I sleep walk."

A few years ago, while scrolling Twitter, I came across "The Traveler's Vade Mecum; or Instantaneous Letter Writer," a book of 8,466 numbered telegrams. It was published in 1853 by A. C. Baldwin, a pioneering consumer advocate who sought to save travelers time and expense at the telegraph office by numbering sentences so that a message could be sent by simply telegraphing a number, instead of having to pay by the word.

Baldwin tried to number everything — every single thing — that 19th-century travelers might want to say. Urgent questions like, "Do you know of a person going West soon, who would take a lady under his protection?" (8328).

Or, news: "A Sad Accident Has Happened" (461). Or simple assurance that one is alive:

"We abound in good cheer." (1508).

If both sender and receiver owned Baldwin's compendium, "I am on board a steamer ship bound for Paris" could be abbreviated to "45-Paris." And "4205" would be all it would take to ruin someone's Grand Tour with, "Your house is at the present moment on fire."

As soon as I saw the book, I was smitten. My first instinct was to make a found poem out of some of the telegrams myself. My poem didn't work. It bore nothing of the richness and range contained in the original document and I realized that what was missing was a complexity of language and syntax that could only be achieved through a multiplicity of voices.

I began reaching out to poets via technologies Baldwin never dreamed of, asking them to write a poem using as title a telegram I'd chosen for them. I created an anthology, "The Traveler's Vade Mecum," published by Red Hen Press in 2016. It got the attention of New York Times poetry editor Matthew Zapruder, who published one of the poems, by Julie Suarez. Its telegram title is relevant today.

### THERE WAS A GREAT WANT OF CIVILITY

All night in the trees,  
the whispering,  
a great disorder, not the way

leaves talk among themselves  
during the day, not the rustle  
of squirrels and birds among them,

but a tossing, shiftless shadow  
weight of darkness,  
leaf to leaf.

I dared not close my eyes  
for fear it would have  
its way with me.

How could anyone sleep?  
— Julie Suarez

Helen Klein Ross is a poet and novelist who lives in Lakeville, Conn., in a house that was built the same year A. C. Baldwin published his compendium.



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NATIONAL POETRY MONTH: MARK SCARBROUGH

# Emily Dickinson, Poetry That Can ‘Break the Brain’

This poem is an excellent entrance point into Emily Dickinson’s work; it shows off the two things she does best. First, the slow realization that life is both utterly fulfilling AND sad, somehow all at once. That problem can be found in the very first line with the empty word “it” that begins the poem and with the word “eventually” at the end of the line (which equivocates the initial future tense).

The poem then moves through a series of the gorgeous metaphors while also showing off her second, unequaled talent: the ability to show the sheer strangeness of life. Bees despising a tune? Is “frill” an adjective or a verb? Mostly, that strangeness settles into the last four lines. They break out into two metaphors with a jarring “slant” rhyme (“gown” — “done”) that makes the poem feel incomplete just when it should neatly wrap things

up. I’ve taught Dickinson for more than 35 years and her poetry always does the same thing: It breaks my brain.

**IT WILL BE SUMMER — EVENTUALLY**

It will be Summer — eventually.  
Ladies — with parasols —  
Sauntering Gentlemen — with Canes —  
And little Girls — with Dolls —

Will tint the pallid landscape —  
As ’twere a bright Bouquet —  
Thro’ drifted deep, in Parian —  
The Village lies — today —

The Lilacs — bending many a year —  
Will sway with purple load —  
The Bees — will not despise the tune —  
Their Forefathers — have hummed —

The Wild Rose — red- den in the Bog —  
The Aster — on the Hill  
Her everlasting fashion — set —  
And Covenant Gentians — frill —

Till Summer folds her miracle —  
As Women — do — their Gown —  
Of Priests — adjust the Symbols —  
When Sacrament — is done —

— Emily Dickinson

Mark Scarbrough is a former academic, a current cookbook writer and the very popular leader of literature classes and reading groups in the Tristate region. His newest class, through the Cornwall Library in Cornwall, Conn., is “Emily Dickinson: The Brightness Of Being.” The eight-week Zoom class began April 6 and continues to May 25, and meets on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. until about 11:45 a.m. To register, go to [www.cornwalllibrary.org/events](http://www.cornwalllibrary.org/events).



PHOTO FROM OPENCULTURE.COM

April is National Poetry Month, a time to learn more about the work of Massachusetts’ own Emily Dickinson.

STREAMING: PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

## A Listicle of American Police Procedurals

I will go out on a not-so-perilous limb and opine that most American police procedural TV shows owe their essential form to the 87th Precinct novels by Ed McBain.

Same basic cast of characters, over and over? Check. Cops’ private lives interwoven into plot? Check. A mix of ordinary, stupid crime and gaudier endeavors? Check. Recurring villains? Check.

So using the McBain template, what American cop shows are worth a look?

**Law & Order:** This procedural ran for 20 years, from 1990-2010, and rarely deviated from the formula of cops investigate crime, district attorney prosecutes crime, justice is (sometimes) served. The earliest episodes feature Michael Moriarty as prosecutor Ben Stone, wearing the last sack suit seen in American media. The Golden Age of the show revolves around Jerry Orbach as Detective Lennie



“Dragnet” is one of several classic American police shows that deserve a second look.

Briscoe (seasons 3 through 14). Tight scripts, solid acting, and topical subjects. Immensely rewatchable. You can buy the episodes or seasons or just wait for them to come around again on regular TV.

**Ed McBain’s 87th Precinct:** You’ll have to go to the DVD for this 1961-62 effort, with 30 episodes in the box set. You’ll get appearances by Robert Culp, Peter Falk and a zillion other character actors of

the time (just like “Law & Order”). Not nearly as gritty as the novels, but what do you expect from 1961?

**Spenser for Hire:** I lived in Boston in the mid-1980s when this show was running, and my flatmates — one college pal and three dental students — devised a drinking game based on geographic anomalies in the show. (There were a lot. It got ugly. One of the dentists dropped out and went

home to New Hampshire.)

I rewatched the entire three-season run this past winter and found it much better — and grittier — than I remembered. This is not the case for the four TV movies which followed the series’ demise in 1988. Those struck me as sanitized and, frankly, pretty tedious.

How to watch: I’m sure I watched the regular seasons for free (with ads) on some service, but that seems to have changed and Amazon Prime wants to nick me for \$25 for the first season only.

**Columbo:** If you want free, watch seven seasons’ worth of “Columbo” on IMDb TV, which is one of those free-with-ads deals.

Thrill as Columbo gets cigar ash on his grubby raincoat! Get a shiver up your spine as That Guy Who Played Whosiewhat-sit in Whatchamacallit makes his nefarious plans! Marvel at how Americans drove gigantic cars and even parallel parked!

And, finally, no listicle on this subject would be complete without “**Dragnet**,” which is available from a number of different sources. Jack Webb was an amazing actor in that he never moved his lips or upper body. Well, almost never. He was also very well dressed. The stories reflect the times, and as such will probably be banned soon. So dial it up while you can.

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[ClimateSmartMillerton.org](http://ClimateSmartMillerton.org)

**BOOKS BY AUTHORS IN OUR REGION**

New books by local authors include “Word for Word: A Writer’s Life,” by Laurie Lisle of Sharon, Conn., who was the author of the well-received biographies of artists Georgia O’Keeffe and Louise Nevelson.

This new book, due out May 11, is about her own struggles to succeed as a woman and an artist in America in the second half of the 20th century.

And available now is a book by pediatric oncologist and Salisbury resident Dr. Michael Weiner, who writes about inspiring true tales of cancer in, “Living Cancer: Stories of an Oncologist, Father, Survivor.”

**Laurie Lisle, the respected biographer of artists Georgia O’Keeffe and Louise Nevelson, has a new book out about her own development as a writer.**

*Word for Word*

*A Writer’s Life*  
*Laurie Lisle*

PHOTO COURTESY BEANSPROUT PRODUCTIONS



EDITORIAL

One of the good changes in the area

Change, while often difficult, can also be cathartic. When it is time for things to change, there is no good reason to deny it. Case in point, the transfer of a nice lot and a building in Lakeville from one longtime town business to another. It has turned out to be better for both businesses and for the real estate usage as well. In 2017, The Lakeville Journal sold to Salisbury Bank its building at 33 Bissell St. in Lakeville, built under the ownership of the late Editor and Publisher Emeritus Robert Estabrook in the early 1980s. The bank already owned all the other land on this small road, except, of course, that building owned by the wonderful resource for Apple retail and service, Visionary Computer. So it seemed a natural transition for the bank to step in and use more space, as it needed it, and for the local newspaper to downsize, as we no longer needed the then-10,000 sq. foot space that once housed printing presses, a bindery and other large graphic arts equipment, as well as lots more office space than necessary, for publishing in the 21st century.

When Salisbury Bank President Rick Cantele first considered, along with his support staff, the use of the industrially used building at 33 Bissell St., they all thought the building could be renovated sufficiently to create a functional and pleasant workspace for their people. But once they got into the details of such a renovation, it became clear, Cantele told Senior Reporter Patrick L. Sullivan recently (see story, April 8 front page), that the better and more efficient approach would be to level the building, use the same footprint, but then start anew.

It is understandable. The building had been a hub of often 24/7 activity for decades, and the printing presses ran like clockwork several days a week until the sale of the company's last press, a Goss Community Web newspaper press, and the newspaper bindery equipment, to a printer in Brooklyn in 2008. It was a little different than general office space. Now, with the brand new building the bank has almost completed, the around 115 employees who will populate it will have very comfortable and clean spaces in which to do business. In that many of them have until now had their offices in the basements of the bank buildings in the area, this will surely be a welcome change for them as well.

The Lakeville Journal wishes all at Salisbury Bank the very best in their new location, with continued success as it can open more and more of the space as COVID restrictions start to quiet down (we can only hope.) This change has resulted in a much better use of the land and building at 33 Bissell St., so a worthwhile one, and one that benefits all who will work there.

Broadband access

At the Democratic Coalition of NW Connecticut Zoom meeting on April 5, Representative Jahana Hayes (D-5) discussed the details of the many bills coming before the House of Representatives. The list was impressive and considering her work load we appreciated her taking the time to talk to us.

Jahana helped pass the American Rescue Plan Act which is at work helping three million people a day to get vaccinated, and it is funding the economic recovery too.

One of the many things funded by the Act is broadband internet access. The pandemic exposed the need for affordable and reliable internet access, not just in rural Litchfield County towns but our cities like Wa-

terbury too. Children need it to keep up with schoolwork, parents and others need it to work from home, or look for jobs, or apply for unemployment. Registering to get vaccinated against COVID-19 without good internet service is difficult.

So much of our economy during this last year was dependent on access to affordable broadband. In the future, it will be more important, as our lives have been forever changed by the pandemic.

Jahana Hayes has been working hard on these issues which are affecting our quality of life here in the 5th District and the country as a whole.

Lizabeth Piel Sharon

We all need to pitch in

Much of the following pertains to supervising youth and teens and ideally for adults to take to heart to be responsible as well for living safely and keeping someone informed of their whereabouts. It is not clear "whose job it is to care" so let's make that everyone's shared chore for the greater good.

What I see as problem that needs addressing is a Lack of Concern and Cross-Training among the general public to care for people at each stage of life, especially youth and elders. Family, caregivers, friends and professionals such as social workers, ministers, medical people and even legal folks need to understand legal, financial and medical criteria to assess each stage of life in terms of needed responsibilities, supervision and accountability.

The job of being a family member or other person in charge or a Power of Attorney or other advocate should be spelled out clearly on a time line to make sure people are doing steps in a timely manner and with an eye toward being a team player. Planning ways to keep elderly and others supported during a time of a transition is very important yet "it's no one's job to do that." Let's change that and make it Everyone's Job! I can be reached at cpaton@yahoo.com or 347-471-9209 to network and share ideas on many topics on my blog Livfully.org to keep conversations flowing.

Catherine Palmer Paton

Falls Village



PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

River view in Falls Village

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If you don't build it, they can't come

It's obvious that some objectors to affordable housing projects in Lakeville and Falls Village are using false claims and stalling tactics to delay, downsize or relocate these projects entirely.

Their worst gambit occurred recently when unidentified objectors to Holley Place in Lakeville hired their own planner who suggested on their behalf that the project could be moved from the village center to the far western edge of town by the New York State line. That would put it on Millerton's

doorstep. It's also right next to the Salisbury/Sharon transfer station — colloquially, the town dump.

The idea seems to be that if low-income residents are domiciled way out there, they might confine their shopping and other activities to Millerton, thus sparing Lakeville from having the underclass underfoot at their beloved lake and Town Grove, even as the town gets credit for boosting its affordable housing stock.

But if low-income residents housed at the edge of town by

the dump were mostly minority members in a mostly white community, it would certainly look like deliberate segregation. It's a bad idea no matter who would live there. Is this 2021 or 1921?

In Falls Village, the housing board says the River Road project, now cut to 16 units from 24, will finally be built as long as well drilling this spring shows sufficient water supply. That should end spurious objections there.

But the opponents are never satisfied, never deterred. They hire lawyers, raising the specter of costly litigation. They charge housing board members with conflicts of interest and town officials with bad faith. They claim affordable housing will harm property values and town character. They say public meetings are improperly run and that the objectors are not given due respect. They warn everyone not to impugn their motives even as they impugn others'.

How long will the towns put up with this? How many times must planning boards go over the same disproven claims? How often must projects be redesigned or downsized (or abandoned) in search of some perfect town unity that can never be attained? How many times will The Lakeville Journal print the same endlessly refuted objections in the name of open debate? This has gone beyond addressing valid concerns to a classic game of rope-a-dope.

As one Salisbury official put it months ago, the practical effect of all the conditions that objectors would put on every housing project would be that none could be built anywhere in town.

Exactly.

Mark Godburn  
Norfolk

Recognize Salisbury's historical character

This letter was sent by me to the Salisbury Planning and Zoning members recently.

Dear P & Z Members: I have followed closely the Holley Block Application to your Board. Never once have I heard a discussion about following the proper Federal procedure for removing Historic properties from the National Register as outlined in the Link below.

Among other things it states that the procedure for removing property designated before 1980 are:

"Grounds for removing properties from the National Register are as follows: 'The property has ceased to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register because the qualities which caused it to be

originally listed have been lost or destroyed, or such qualities were lost subsequent to nomination and prior to listing.' "

A very formalized procedure for removing a Historic Site must be followed. I have never seen a written request by the Town, or the P & Z Committee requesting removal of Bicentennial Park from the National Register.

Salisbury is a very historic town. It should be respectful of maintaining its historic sites. At the very least, if Bicentennial Park is no longer considered a National Historic Site by the town or any other authorized agency it should follow the procedures for removing the property.

Nancy Van Deusen  
Lakeville

FV has affordable homes

What Falls Village needs is better access to housing for its residents who would like assistance. Our community has not become too expensive for our firemen and teachers. We have homes on the market for under \$300,000. What we need is a program to help our neighbors to own these homes. We do not need to build new overcrowded rental units on Inland Wetland property with poor drainage and no town water in the woods on River Road while homes in our town fall into disrepair and are sold at auction.

In 2013, our Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) called for the town to form a local housing group of volunteers to proactively seek ways of meeting the housing needs of residents: rental and homeownership. It is time for that work to begin.

Falls Village Housing Trust must open its doors to new members and new thinking. Their purpose is not to push government subsidized rentals as far from our town center as possible, and in doing so make consultants rich. There are four Habitat for Humanity homes in Lime Rock Station, 20% of their housing stock. Not one member on FVHT is proposing housing in their own neighborhood. That is the real NIMBY in our midst.

Our first selectman, Henry Todd, signed a contract with housing consultant David Berto to apply for a grant of up to \$1,000,000, which Todd explained in writing was for drainage for the River Road Homes. This was made official in the April 5 Special Board of Selectmen meeting for which no required agenda was posted. This violates state statutes governing notice to the public of the purpose of Special BOS meetings.

The second smallest town in Connecticut, with 700+ homes and 1000+ residents, is not what the transit hub Incentive Housing Zone was designed for, and any planner knows that. \$300,000 in grants has enriched consultants while not one roof was replaced, not one family helped since the 2013 POCD was adopted.

Our NHCOC must cease their role of both advising the Selectmen then performing their own recommendations. The conflict of interest is clear. The time has come for Falls Village to take back control of our agenda for housing, infrastructure and more.

These ideas and opinions are mine and do not reflect the position of the Falls Village Affordable Housing Planning Task Force.

Daly Reville  
Falls Village

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — April 1921

A truck load of men have been on Mt. Riga to safeguard that part of the mountain against the fire that has been raging on the New York State side of the range.

LIME ROCK — George Ritton has resigned his position here in the Foundry and accepted one with Brewer Brothers in Canaan and will move there in the near future.

— Gov. Lake has proclaimed Friday May 6th as arbor and bird day.

SALISBURY — Mrs. Lois Wright and H.R. Brinton have exchanged residences this week.

50 years ago — April 1971

The trailer truck installed by Frank Hitchcock of Canaan at a site made ready by the Erickson Brothers at the Salisbury Disposal Area marks the launching of an ongoing Glass Recycling Project.

— The first grass fire of Spring occurred last Sunday when three acres of grass were burned over on the Stillwater Farm on Housatonic River Road in Salisbury. William Whitbeck, head of Fire Prevention, said it was started when Calvin Pollard was "bombing out" woodchucks at the farm. Fire is thrust into the woodchuck hole, the smoke of which asphyxiates the animal.

— The ancient elm which stood in Cornwall for over two centuries finally met its end this week, a victim of Dutch Elm Disease. It stood before the home of Dr. and Mrs. W.B. Walker.

— The lakefront estate of Mrs. Artie (Evelyn Keyes) Shaw on Lake Wononscopomuc, has been sold to Martin Ackerman, a New York City attorney.

KENT -- Two new tires and their rims were stolen from the lot of Gatto Chevrolet last week, late Thursday night or early Friday morning. Value was put at over \$100.

—The 10-inch snowfall we woke to last Wednesday only served to make Kent residents all the more appreciative of the 70 degree weather we enjoyed early this week. Patches of snow remain on the north side of houses, but tulips push up undaunted elsewhere. Last year it snowed here on Mother's Day, May 10. Any bets for 1971?

(Bonus: second section of April 15, 1971's issue has a story on Canaan's Stanley Segalla and his rebuilt Tiger Moth bi-plane. See page 17 of 24. Also, same page, is a story on hearing in Hartford as supporters of passenger train service between Danbury-Canaan attempt to build their case for keeping the Berkshire Division service)

25 years ago — April 1996

SALISBURY — The selectmen will recommend the WQQQ radio station of Lakeville to be the preferred tenant for a town-owned historic former railroad depot at a town meeting sometime in the next few weeks.

CANAAN — It was late Monday afternoon and there were still a million details to take care of, but A.T. and Lori Keilty were smiling through it all, excited and eager to open their new business, Keilty's Pub, the next day. It will be "business as usual," is how the couple described their takeover of the former Depot Pub & Grub restaurant at Canaan Union Station. They bought the business from Tom and Wendy Gales April 2 and reopened this past Tuesday.

(Front page story of controversial gravel mining application by singer James Taylor makes news. Again. Wins for the moment — by technicality of a "defective" legal notice.)

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

THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

(USPS 303280)

An Independent Connecticut Newspaper  
Published Weekly by The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC  
64 Route 7 North, Falls Village, CT 06031  
P.O. Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039-9989  
Tel. (860) 435-9873  
www.tricornernews.com • editor@lakevillejournal.com

Volume 124, Number 36 Thursday, April 15, 2021

Mission Statement

The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC, Publishers of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News  
Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, fostering democracy and an atmosphere of open communication.

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Subscription Rates - One Year: \$82.00 in Litchfield County, \$98.00 outside county  
Known Office of Publication: Lakeville, CT 06039-1688. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Lakeville, CT 06039. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, Connecticut 06039-1688.

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

# Pros and cons of the Biden infrastructure bill

"A billion here, a billion there, and pretty soon you're talking real money..."

— Attributed to the late Senator Everett Dirksen

The current infrastructure bill being formulated by the Biden administration has everyone asking: Just what is infrastructure? One simple definition is the basic physical and organizational structures, facilities and systems needed for the operation of a society or enterprise. As commonly understood in the U.S., this includes transportation systems, electrical and other power distribution, drinking water, wastewater and stormwater collection and distribution, and telephone and internet facilities.

The core of this new bill being formulated is clearly infrastructure but there is so much more — it is really a grab bag of varied spending proposals that the administration supports and wants to write into law. But as presently conceived less than half of the \$2 trillion budgeted for the bill is really for infrastructure, as most of us understand it, the rest earmarked for a wide assortment of worthy programs, mostly for social welfare. Despite the administration's efforts to make all these different programs sound well integrated, they really are not and do not belong in the same package. But politically maybe it makes some sense.

Most Americans, especially Republican politicians, tend to think of infrastructure as being primarily about "roads and bridges." Even so, less than a quarter of the transportation portion of the budget is allocated for roads and bridges (\$135 billion). The largest segment (\$174 billion), while for cars and trucks, is planned for providing electric vehicles for the federal government and a national network of half a million charging stations. In addition, there is \$85 billion for upgrading mass transit, \$80 billion for Amtrak, and lesser amounts for

airports, inland waterways and building in resilience to cope with climate-related disasters.

A little over \$300 billion is more or less equally divided between expanding high-speed broadband, improving the national electrical grid, and modernizing America's drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems.

The call for high-speed broadband access throughout the country (\$100 billion) has become a non-partisan matter, most everyone seems to want it.

The recent storms in Texas that knocked down the state's electric grid and caused enormous damage that is sure to be repeated unless a much better system is put in place has reminded us that, throughout the country, our electrical grid needs considerable upgrading: (\$100 billion).

The bill calls for \$111 billion for "water infrastructure", including \$45 billion to eliminate all lead pipes and \$56 billion to modernize America's drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems. It's a huge amount of money but hardly seems like enough for the tasks.

The total budgeted for infrastructure is \$877 billion, a staggering amount but nowhere near enough to complete the job.

The remaining 54% of the bill is budgeted for 26 other specified areas. The largest item, caregivers for elderly and people with disabilities, is budgeted at \$400 billion, the largest category in the bill. Some other areas to be funded include: public schools, public housing, the VA, retrofit of existing homes and commercial properties and nearly half a trillion dollars for programs in research, development, and manufacturing. And much more.

Perhaps because President Biden has vowed that no one earning less than \$400,000 a year would have to pay more

federal taxes because of this bill, there has been no mention of raising the federal gas tax to help pay for at least the "roads and bridges" portion of the bill. The Federal Excise Taxes on Gasoline (18.4 cents/gal.) and Diesel Fuel (24.4 cents/gal.) have not increased since 1994; inflation over the past 27 years has reduced the value of the fuel taxes collected by nearly half.

Legislators, particularly those from rural states, worry that increasing fuel taxes will anger their voters. Getting members of Congress to support a significant fuel tax increase will not be easy. But such a tax increase is long overdue. Increasing the fuel taxes by only 50 cents/gal. would yield nearly \$100 billion additional annually, enough to fund all of the \$621 billion transportation priorities currently laid out in the bill within seven years. And it might induce people to drive less and manufacturers to produce more fuel-efficient vehicles.

The current bill proposes to pay for its \$2 trillion dollars of expenses by several alterations to the federal tax code including raising the corporate income tax from 21% to 28% and closing tax loopholes as never before. However, since last year more than 55 of our largest corporations paid zero federal income tax, this plan may need to be bolstered by more revenue producing methods. Significantly increasing the budget for, and capability of, the Internal Revenue Service would be a good place to start.

Architect and landscape designer Mac Gordon lives in Lakeville.

## OCCASIONAL OBSERVER MAC GORDON

# Alternative (gourmet) protein

Let's deal with nonsense first. It is true you can get more protein from a field of corn or soy than you can get from cattle on the same grass or hay field in terms of productivity. True, but only for year 1. Year 2 they are the same.

floating ropes yields 12 times the same protein as farm cattle or corn or soy—year 1, and year 2, and year 3, and so on.

## A VIEW FROM THE EDGE PETER RIVA

Year 3 cattle yield more protein per acre; that is unless you feed the planting soil with fertilizer (cows fertilize their own fields). Where does fertilizer come from? 85% of all commercial fertilizer is an oil and gas industry product. You want to grow plants commercially? You support the oil industry. Anyone who tells you otherwise is either lying or prepared to open 3,000% more quarries to dig up ancient chemicals (phosphates, minerals, etc.) to try and make efficient commercial farms work.

But there is another, cleaner, more environmentally sustainable protein source that humans have been harvesting and eating since Mesolithic times: Shellfish.

Anchored off the coasts in Britain are huge sea floor anchors to which are attached ropes sometimes 100 feet long with a float at the other end. Before anchoring these ropes, they are soaked with the larvae of mussels, many of which find nooks to hide in, and when lowered to the sea floor the mussels begin to grow. Now what's interesting is that mussels grow from larva stage to full adult size in about 7 months. One acre of these

What's more, mussels clean the ocean of carbon (as in carbon dioxide, a

global warming gas) and convert it to calcium carbonate for their shells. Their shells are very good fertilizer for those vegetable crops. On a typical sea floor farm of 40 acres you can harvest, annually, 96,000 pounds of mussel meat (not including shells, of course). On a NE dairy farm, averaging one and a half cows per acre sustainability, you can get less than 30 2-years old beef head to market maximum on a 40-acre pasture. Averaging 400 pounds actual meat per animal, that's just 13,500 pounds for super-market shelves. Mussels give you 8 times as much.

So, what do you have to feed the mussels? Nothing. Placed in northern climates with tidal action, the mussels go about filtering almost a half gallon of sea water per hour. Yes, per hour. These small creatures filter out bits of food, small plankton, seaweed bits, and grow. Placed on the bay outside of major coastlines the mussels, like sharks, are a vital part of the ocean's clean water for other fish to thrive. In fact, bivalves (oysters, mussels, clams and so on) clean 30% of all sea water near shore. And you harvest them at maturity, not like beef or lamb, or chicken taken

## So, what do you have to feed the mussels? Nothing.

in adolescence.

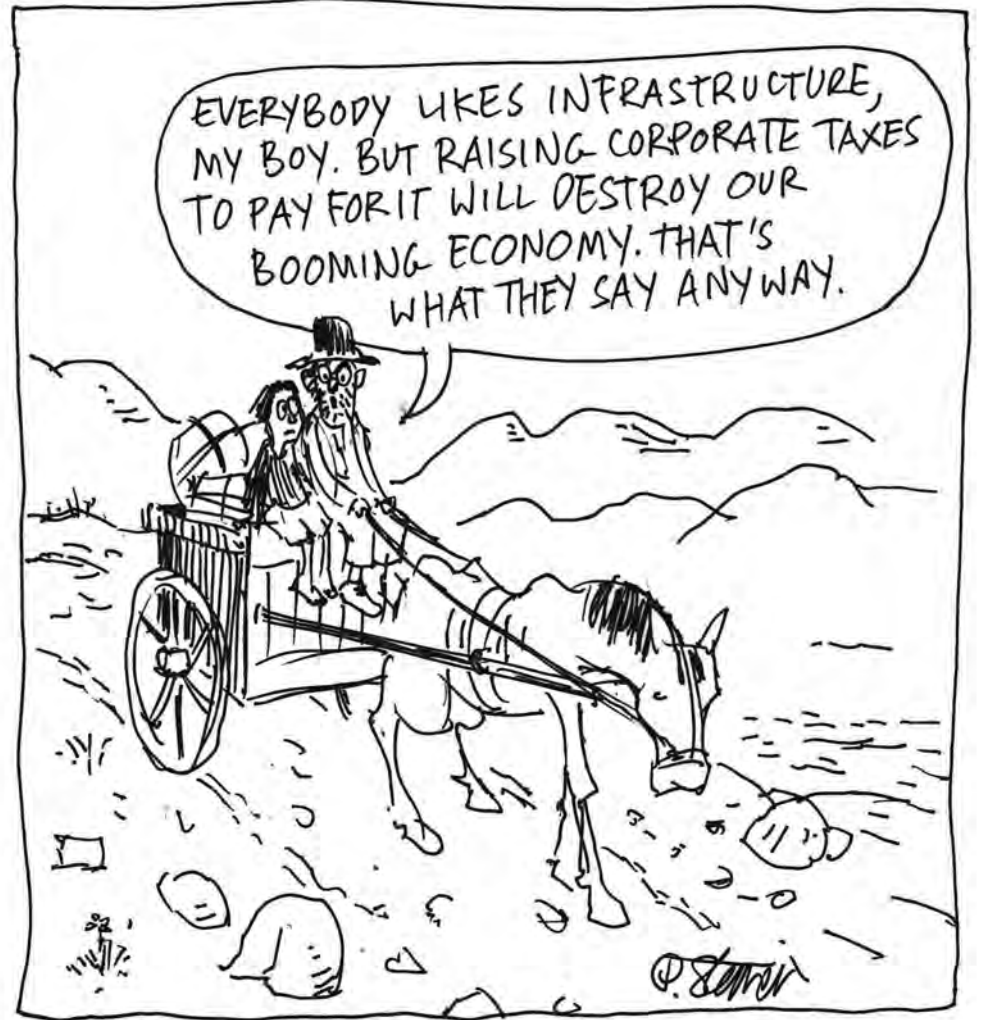
And are mussels good to eat? If you have not tried them, do. Your Mesolithic ancestors thrived on them all winter long, when the mussels were grown and other meat was scarce. Mussels contain vitamin B-12, Omega-3, and a host of other brain-enhancing goodness. Easy to prepare, delicious to eat, hopefully mussels may well become a staple food this century once again.

Writer Peter Riva, a former resident of Amenita Union, now resides in New Mexico.



PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

## Spring skies



# Bert Williams, so long ago but still so very relevant

In 1914, a perceptive critic for the Chicago Defender wrote, "Every time I see Mr. Bert Williams, the 'distinguished colored comedian', I wonder if he is not the patient repository of a secret sadness... Sorrow concealed,

'like an oven stopped', must burn his heart to cinders." Now that is writing. Journalists beware and aware.

W.C. Fields called Bert Williams "the funniest man I ever saw, and the saddest I ever knew."

Bert Williams and George Walker, two of the most successful comedians on the vaudeville circuit. They kept exchanging parts. One was the smart one; one the foil. Until they got it right. They played at the Columbia Exposition in 1893 Chicago in a play they wrote called "Dahomey", which was one of the launching pads in Africa for the slave trade. The irony? There were no Blacks allowed in to the Expo, even though Frederick Douglass, who had been in Lincoln's Cabinet, in the waning years of his life, and almost 30 years after the hack thespian/assassin Booth shot Honest Abe, tried to enter with Harriet Tubman and both were disallowed. Also, of note, is where and when the first woman to play Aunt Jemima, Nancy Green, whipped up her special pancakes for the appreciative slave-addicted Crackers, mixing my starches there.

A quote from Williams: "People sometimes ask me if I would not give anything to be white. I answer ... most emphatically, 'No.' How do I know what I might be if I were a white man? I might be a sandhog, burrowing away and losing my health for \$8 a day. I might be a streetcar

conductor at \$12 or \$15 a week. There is many a white man less fortunate and less well-equipped

than I am. In fact, I have never been able to discover that there was anything disgraceful in being a colored man. But I have often found it inconvenient ... in America."

There are a couple of stories about Bert Williams, going into a gin mill with either Eddie Cantor or Al Jolson. Probably the former. Williams often appeared in blackface and Jolson of course came to fame singing "Mammy," also in blackface. (That word again. Irony?) The white barkeep refused to serve Williams, who proceeded to slap a \$500 bill on the mahogany (I had a Jesuit ethics professor, of some rotundity, who told our class that that weekend he was going to Chicago to traverse The Mahogany Trail). Said barkeep then dutifully served Williams. What I cannot find record of is whether he left Sparky a gratuity. Guesses?

Speaking of blackface, I just read that Ben Vereen of "Pippin" fame performed in blackface for Ronald Reagan. What? And the governor of Virginia was at a party in what?

Eddie Cantor told the story of Bert in a St. Louis bar, ordering gin from a bartender reluctant to serve a Black man. Spikey frowned at Williams and said, "I'll give you gin, but it's \$50 a glass." Without hesitation, Bert took out his wallet and produced a \$500 bill. "Give me ten of them," he said.

My belief? He had some \$1000 bills as well. When money was real.

Hattie MacDaniel of "Gone With the Wind" fame was criticized in the Black community for playing a maid. She said, "I'd rather get \$700 a week playing

a maid, then 7 dollars a week being one." When money was real.

From Williams' priceless song "Nobody":

"When life seems full of clouds and rain

And I am full of nothin' and pain

Who soothes my thumping, bumping brain?

Nobody

When I was in that railroad wreck

And thought I'd cashed in my last check

Who took the engine off my neck?

Not a soul

Nobody."

Not Derek Chauvin, that's for sure.

Has anyone remarked on "chauvinistic" yet? Had it been Georgia Floyd, would it have been different?

Jim Crow, 2.0?

One of the few times the disgraced loser Trump told the truth is when he said that if everyone had a chance to vote, the Republicans would never win another election. I'll drink to that. Give me 10 and here's a nickel for your trouble, kind sir. This ain't been out of my pocket for the longest time. You can see the buffalo blinkin' at the light.

And Williams to close it out.

"I ain't never done nothin' to nobody

I ain't never done nothin' to nobody, no time

So until I get somethin' from somebody sometime

I'll never do nothin' for nobody, no time."

"Sorrow concealed, 'like an oven stopped', must burn his heart to cinders."

Lonnie Carter is a writer who lives in Falls Village. Email him at lonniety@comcast.net., or go to his website at www.lonniecarter.com.

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