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Gingerbread, marmalade and more
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The Lakeville Journal

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

Finding what's best for West Twin lake health

By Debra A. Aleksinas

Editor's note: The Lakeville Journal is presenting a series of articles about a dispute over a protected property in the Twin Lakes section of Salisbury. Our goal is to explain the situation as it is seen from all sides.

This week's article focuses on whether removal of a section of an old railroad causeway could improve lake health.

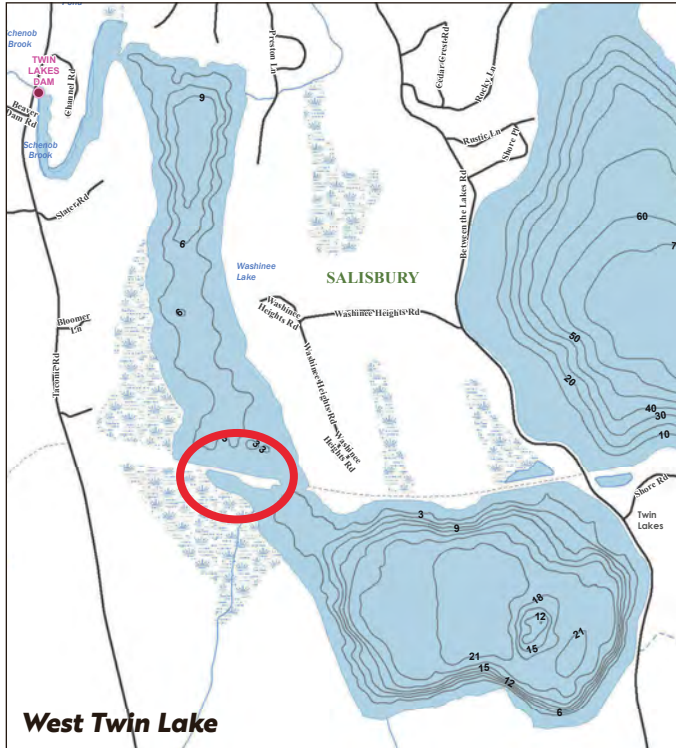
For past articles on this topic, go to www.tricornernews.com. Look for a history of the railroad that used the causeway, by Rob Buccino, in our issue of Jan. 14.

SALISBURY — A dispute over whether a Salisbury landowner can amend a conservation agreement on his property continues to raise strong feelings.

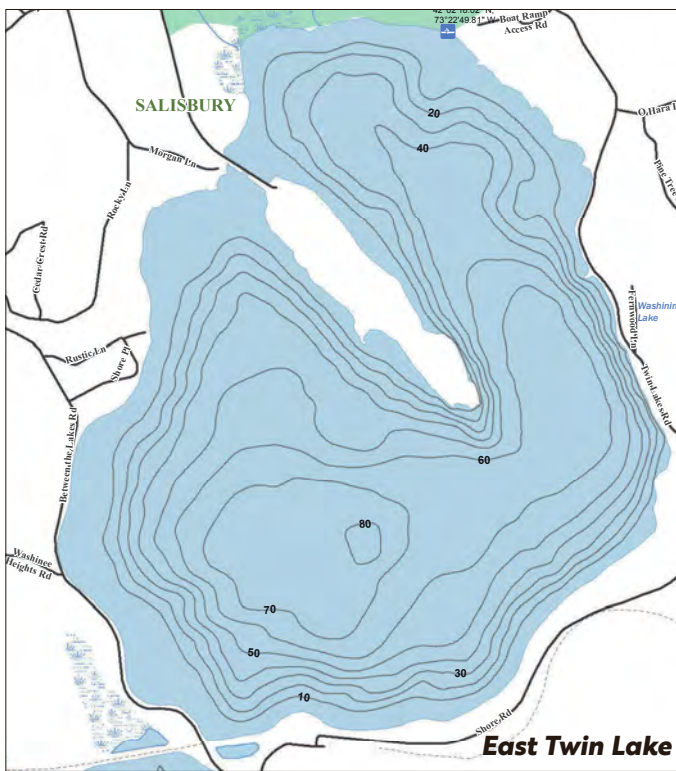
One group opposes any changes to any such agreements, fearing that if changes are allowed by one person, it will set a precedent that will allow other landowners to ignore restrictions on their land.

The owner of the property in question claims that removing an old railroad causeway on his property will improve

See TWIN LAKES, Page A8



West Twin Lake



IMAGES COURTESY OF DEEP

A lake study done in 2015 offers reasons why the health of West Twin Lake (Lake Washinee) has deteriorated and theories on how to improve it. At question is a causeway, circled in the map above as a white spit extending into the water. The second map, bottom, shows East Twin Lake (Lake Washing).



PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN, ALEXANDER WILBURN AND HUNTER O. LYLE.

The Way We Live Now

Masks were ubiquitous in most places this year, whether it was at school or protest marches or polling places. But safe behavior was lacking on the river this summer.

Looking Back: 2020

Hospitals, nursing homes hope for a shot at normalcy in 2021

By Debra A. Aleksinas

For many, 2020 will be remembered as the year when life ground to a halt.

Not so for hospitals and nursing homes. From the moment the COVID-19 pandemic started, these institutions, their staff and administrators maintained a frenetic pace in order to navigate a challenging and frightening new landscape.

Temporary field hospitals popped up. Personal protective equipment (PPE) became mandatory. New playbooks for responding to the novel coronavirus were written. Healthcare workers protected the healthy and tended to the sick and lonely. Administrators of nursing homes and hospitals monitored months of non-stop state and federal rules and guidelines, and fretted about maintaining financial stability.

Burnout and infection fears

Dr. Mark Hirko, president of Sharon Hospital, said in an interview last fall during a second wave of heightened community spread of the virus, "All it takes is one exposure, and we can be decimated within 24 hours." Hirko and other administrators spent most of 2020 mired in a cloud of uncertainty.

At Charlotte Hungerford Hospital in Torrington, Dr. Ajay Kumar referred to 2020 as "a challenging time for health care." A late fall rise in hospitalizations, positive test results and a staff feeling the strain concerned him, he said in a late November interview. "There is the burnout factor, that's a concern right now."

A nursing shortage in the Northwest Corner added to the angst. The longer the pandemic rages on, said Bill Pond, administrator at the Noble Horizons Retirement Community in Salisbury, "the greater the toll on staff."

From quarantine to a return to visits

The Geer Village Senior Community in North Canaan managed to keep the novel coronavirus off campus for eight months of 2020 through rigorous planning and strict safety precautions. But in early fall, one positive test result among a staff member quickly sparked an outbreak at its Assisted Living Facility.

To fight the novel coronavirus, Geer performed a weekly schedule of testing of staff and residents, additional nursing

See HEALTH CARE, Page A8

Looking Back: 2020

Hot towns, summer on the river

By Patrick L. Sullivan

People seeking relief from heat and boredom flocked to the Housatonic River between the Great Falls in Salisbury and Falls Village, downstream to Bulls Bridge in Kent this summer.

With the closing of state parks and other COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the river was one of a very few remaining outdoor recreation options.

Towns, state government agencies, the First Light power company and private organizations scrambled to cope with the increased crowds and problems of trash disposal, inexperienced swimmers and hikers, and the near-total absence of sanitary facilities.

A massive crowd, estimated in the hundreds, came to the picnic area on Dugway Road in Amesville on Saturday, July 4.

Similar overcrowding forced the closure of the Bulls

Looking Back: 2020 Enrollment in schools didn't increase by much

By Cynthia Hochswender

With this year's influx of new full-time residents in the Northwest Corner, it was anticipated that enrollment at the region's public schools would increase significantly.

The addition of new students would have been a boon; enrollment has been steadily declining in recent years, prompting many of the schools to begin advertising and marketing campaigns.

Over the summer, school principals said that they had

See ENROLLMENT, Page A8

Looking Back: 2020

Voters showed strong support for the Democrats

By Patrick L. Sullivan

Connecticut voters chose Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden over Republican President Donald Trump on Tuesday, Nov. 3.


Biden and Kamala Harris received 956,660 votes, and Trump and Vice President Mike Pence garnered 171,891 votes.

Incumbent U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-5) beat GOP challenger David X. Sullivan for the 5th Congressional District seat, 171,891 to 142,678.

Incumbent state Sen. Craig R. Miner (R-30) won


See ELECTIONS, Page A8





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In The Journal this week

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VIEWPOINT B5
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Three-day forecast

Friday Cloudy, high 34°/low 19°
 Saturday Cloudy, 30°/18°
 Sunday Cloudy, 32°/23°

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.

Violating a restraining order

On Dec. 18 at approximately 9:30 a.m. Troop B served an active arrest warrant to Nicholas Raymond Plouffe, 31, of Sharon. He was charged with the criminal violation of a restraining order, disorderly conduct and unlawful restraint in the second degree. He was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on that same day.

Disorderly conduct

On Dec. 18 at approximately 10:45 p.m. Troop B received a report of an active domestic disturbance at a residence on Route 63 in Falls Village where a male was reportedly screaming "that his wife and mother-in-law were forcing him out of the house." Following an investigation, Maximilian D. Mann, 43, of North Canaan was charged with disorderly conduct. He was unable to post bond and was transferred to New Haven Correctional Center. He was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on Dec. 21.

Speeding on wet roads

On Dec. 20 at approximately 2 p.m. on Route 4 in Sharon a 2011 Nissan Rouge driven by Lisa A. Williams, 48, of Torrington, Conn., lost control on the wet road, struck a wire rope guardrail and came to a final rest against a tree. No injuries were reported. Williams received a verbal warning for traveling too fast for the conditions.

Didn't stop at stop sign

On Dec. 22 at approximately 7:30 a.m. on Hospital Hill Road in Sharon a 2010 Toyota Prius driven by Brian Lee Peckham, 53, of Farmington, Conn., failed to stop at a stop

sign and made a left turn into the intersection, striking the driver's side of a 2012 Toyota Highlander driven by Adjiraratu Seck, 39, of Lakeville. No injuries were reported. Peckham was issued a written warning for failure to obey a stop sign.

Didn't stop at stop sign

On Dec. 23 at approximately noon on Route 44 in North Canaan a 2016 Chevrolet Trax driven by Philip Rueger, 74, of North Canaan failed to stop at a stop sign, entered the intersection and struck a 2007 Dodge Caravan driven by Ivan Chassie, 65, of Goshen, Conn. Rueger's passenger, Susan Rueger, 69, was transported to Sharon Hospital. Rueger was given a verbal warning for failure to obey a stop sign.

Struck an Eversource pole

On Dec. 24 at approximately 8:20 p.m. on Johnson Road in Falls Village a 2015 Ford F150 driven by Anne Christine Gray, 36, of Cornwall drove off the road and struck an Eversource utility pole. Gray was deemed at fault for the crash. She was issued an infraction for failure to drive in the proper lane.

Breach of peace

On Jan. 2 at approximately 10:30 a.m. Troop B received a report of an active domestic disturbance on Norfolk Road in North Canaan where Robert Christopher Travis, 24, of Colebrook, Conn., was described as "out of control and not leaving the public area." Travis was arrested and charged with breach of peace in the second degree. He was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on Jan. 25.

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.

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Falls Village students awarded scholarships

FALLS VILLAGE — The Falls Village Scholarship Association (FVSA) announced that it had awarded five scholarships to students living in town to continue their education at colleges or trade schools for the 2020-21 academic year. All five students are graduates of Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

This year's awardees are Jessy Haggard who attends the University of Connecticut at Storrs (exploring an interest in leadership and the law), Jacob Sheltra who attends Johnson and Wales University (pursuing his interest in the culinary arts), Michael Hanlon (pursuing an interest in natural resources and agriculture), Max Dodge (preparing for a possible career as a game warden), and Nicholas Dodge (pursuing an interest in wildlife); the latter are three attending Northwestern Connecticut Community College.

For more than 40 years, FVSA has awarded scholarships to well over 100 students.

The recipients are from Falls Village and graduated from either Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Oliver Wolcott Technical High School in Torrington, or one of the private high schools in the area.

FVSA has always culminated its annual fundraising efforts with Bingo Night at Lee H. Kellogg School each spring, offering an opportunity for the community to gather for some fun in support of our young people. This past spring, the pandemic caused FVSA to forgo this primary fundraiser, making individual donations more important than ever.

FVSA is a committee of community members, together with volunteers, who work to raise funds to enable students to continue their education at colleges, universities or trade schools throughout the country.

To make a donation to the scholarship fund for 2021 applicants or for more information, go to www.fallsvillagescholarships.org



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

The Lakeville Journal Company has created a jigsaw puzzle featuring a 1958 holiday poster by Marianna Van Rossen Hoogendyke. It can be purchased as a fundraiser for our newspaper company.

Dear reader, fill your winter hours with The Lakeville Journal puzzle

The Lakeville Journal published a holiday poster in 1958 created by Sharon resident and artist Marianna Van Rossen Hoogendyke. The poster has always been a prized piece of decor in the offices of our newspaper, and this year we decided to make it into a jigsaw puzzle.

To help us in our quest to raise funds for the continuing publication of our community newspapers, The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News, we are now selling the puzzle online at www.createjigsawpuzzles.com/sell/lakevillejournal.

We added a color wash to the original image, which was black and white and red (like the old children's riddle: What's black and white and read all over? A newspaper!).

The colors are intended to

make the puzzle a little easier to complete.

We have three different puzzle options: 500 pieces and 1,000 pieces in cardboard; and 500 pieces in wood.

The prices vary for each of the three styles; The Lakeville Journal Company earns a small percentage of each sale.

If enough people order the puzzle, we will continue to create new puzzles periodically, including some that will feature the advertisements from old issues, which are both charming and an interesting snapshot of what life was like in our towns in past eras.

If you have questions or ideas (and if you have any problems with your order), contact cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com.

— Cynthia Hochswender

Finding the fun in tort law

SALISBURY — Attorney-turned-author Tom Morrison and retired television anchor Bill Littauer will engage in a light-hearted conversation about Morrison's new book, "Torts R Us" in an online event co-sponsored by Noble Horizons and the Scoville Memorial Library.

The online interview will be on Thursday, Jan. 7, at 7 p.m.

Littauer will interview Morrison about his hilarious, "wickedly funny satire" in which two overly zealous lawyers, who are also brothers, engage in legal exploits that promise to leave readers

laughing out loud.

Morrison, a long-time attorney with Patterson and Belknap, has been described as the "dean of false advertising litigation," based on his pioneering work in the field of false advertising, in which national advertisers may now sue their competitors for advertising that is false or unsubstantiated.

Littauer was a television anchor with WPIX in New York City and a news reporter and producer in Washington, D.C.

The Zoom link can be found by registering at www.noblehorizons.org.

Correction

An article in the Dec. 24, 2020, Compass said that Pointy Snout Caviar was started in the mid 1990s. It was started in 2010.

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

Check them out inside.
• CVS



BEAR WATCH



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY GEORGE ELLING AND SUSAN PAKULA

Just because it's winter, that doesn't mean your bird feeders are safe from ursine visits.

The story of the bears and the bird feeders

FALLS VILLAGE — Just when it seemed safe to hang a bird feeder again ... George Elling and Susan Pakula spotted a bear ambling between multiple bird feeders in the early evening on Dec. 22 in Falls Village.

While it is often considered safe to put out bird feeders in winter, not all bears are in permanent hibernation. Bird feeder owners should continue to exercise caution, even in winter.

Seeking a steward for historic Lakeville Journal photo negatives

The Lakeville Journal sold its building in Lakeville a few years ago and now rents a much smaller space in Falls Village.

As a result, we no longer have space to store several filing cabinets with photo negatives and contact sheets for images that were taken by Lakeville Journal and Millerton News staff between about 1950 and 2000.

The photos are a wonderful souvenir of what the towns and the people looked like a half century ago.

For now, they are stored in an unheated commercial space in Falls Village — and they need to be moved this month.

Unless we can find a new home for them, they will be destroyed.

Some of the negatives have been salvaged by area historical societies; the images by Mary Lou Estabrook are now preserved in the collection of the University of Connecticut.

If anyone is interested in taking over the stewardship of any or all of these negatives, please contact Cynthia Hochswender at cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com as soon as possible. In a perfect world, the new steward of the images would scan them and upload them electronically, so that they are saved for posterity and can be readily available to anyone who would like to see them.

Staying 'Woke' as we start 2021

SALISBURY — Lopez Bunyasi will discuss her co-authored book, "Stay Woke: A People's Guide to Making All Black Lives Matter," and talk upon how to continue the commitment to antiracism in a Biden-Harris administration.

The talk on Zoom, sponsored by the Scoville Memorial Library, will be on Thursday, Jan. 7, at 2 p.m.

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Our Towns

Rolling responses to COVID-19 at regional schools



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Students arrived wearing masks to Salisbury Central School for the first day of in-person classes in the Region One School District.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Region One schools switched to distance learning on March 17, with the last day of in-person instruction on March 13.

Gov. Ned Lamont issued an executive order closing the state's public schools on March 15. That order was subsequently extended until, on May 5, Lamont ordered the schools closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.

The six K-8 schools in the Region One towns of Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon held scaled-down eighth-grade graduation ceremonies outside, with masks and social distance. Housatonic Valley Regional High School's graduation was held in drive-through fashion at the racetrack at Lime Rock Park.

The schools reopened in August with in-person learning at the K-8 schools, and a hybrid model of in-person and

LOOKING BACK: 2020

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distance learning at the high school. Families had the choice of participating or sticking with distance learning.

Region One Superintendent Lisa Carter (who was interim superintendent until she was voted in by the school boards as superintendent in December) maintained a steady stream of updates regarding positive COVID-19 tests in the various schools, and what if any measures were being taken in mitigation.

Things came to a head in December, however. On Dec. 7, the high school switched from the hybrid schedule to an all-distance schedule, expected

to end on Tuesday, Jan. 19.

At an emergency meeting of the Region One Board of Education on Dec. 3, Carter said contact tracing for exposure to COVID-19 had become increasingly difficult and complicated; at the same time, more students and families were opting for distance learning anyway.

With the Thanksgiving break over and the Christmas break approaching, Carter said that it was a good time to go to distance learning for "a short period of time" (roughly six weeks).

And on Dec. 20, with several middle school teachers at Lee H. Kellogg school in Falls Village out with illness, the decision was made to switch to distance learning for the entire school, starting Dec. 21 and with a planned return to in-person learning on Jan. 5, and later extended to Jan. 19.

Strong feelings on both sides for Salisbury affordable housing plan

SALISBURY — This fall the Salisbury Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) conducted a lengthy public hearing on an application from the Salisbury Housing Committee to build an affordable housing apartment building in Lakeville.

The public hearing, held online, and spread over three evenings, attracted considerable attention.

(See the town website, www.salisburyct.us, for exhibits and materials pertaining to the application.)

It was somewhat anticlimactic when the Housing Committee withdrew the application prior to the third round of the hearing on Nov. 9.

Jocelyn Ayer, a member of the Housing Committee's board of directors, wrote in an email Saturday, Nov. 7 that, "We've received new information in the last few days and need more than three days to address it sufficiently, so we withdrew the application. We

plan to submit an even stronger application to P&Z for Holley Place in the next month or so."

The withdrawn application was for a 13-unit apartment building at 11 Holley St. in Lakeville's Historic District. The town-owned site is now occupied by a small park and a parking lot at the intersection of Holley Street and Main Street (Route 44).

The breakdown of the building, according to the withdrawn application, was: eight one-bedroom apartments, two two-bedroom apartments and three three-bedroom apartments, plus an office and a common room, on three floors.

During the first two sessions of the public hearing, on Sept. 21 and Oct. 8, several concerns were raised, including: The legality of the Board of Selectmen's extension of the Housing Committee's option to buy the property at a special meeting on July 23; technical problems with the application; whether

LOOKING BACK: 2020

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the site is appropriate for the purpose; traffic safety; public parking at the site versus parking for the residents; the size of the proposed apartment building; the impact of construction on nearby properties; the impact on access to nearby properties; does the design of the building match the intentions of the original donors; have the P&Z meetings on the subject been properly warned and neighbors properly notified.

On Nov. 9, the public hearing reconvened. P and Z Chair Michael Klemens read into the record a list of exhibits, including several dozen letters both pro and con.

There was a lengthy letter, with 131 signatures, opposing

the proposal. The letter reads, in part, "After mining our Town's records and meeting archives, we've discovered that this urban complex is not only out of context with the design and scale of buildings that line the streetscape in Lakeville, but that it violates multiple State laws and Salisbury zoning regulations, posing serious health and safety concerns."

The commission then voted unanimously to close the public hearing. Then the commission voted unanimously to accept, without prejudice, the notice from the Housing Committee that the application was being withdrawn.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Housatonic Valley Regional High School met the spring's unusual circumstances by holding graduation as a drive-through event held at Lime Rock Park in June 2020.

Falls Village affordable housing moves forward, despite opposition

FALLS VILLAGE — On Oct. 22, the Falls Village Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) voted unanimously to approve the site plan application from the Falls Village Housing Trust to build an affordable housing complex on River Road.

The approval was contingent on the following conditions: The development is fully bonded to ensure completion; the construction must conform to the site plan and the zoning regulations; the existence of potable water must be confirmed; the Trust must submit a management plan for P&Z approval; hours of construction are limited to Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; the permissions and approval of other relevant commissions and agencies must be noted on the development's routing sheet; and the lot line change between Habitat for Humanity and the Trust must be finalized.

The commission also recommended that an area be set aside for overflow parking.

(Prior to the P&Z taking up the application, it was approved by the Inland Wetlands Commission at its June 15 meeting.)

The P&Z held an online public hearing on the develop-

ment, spread over three nights: Sept. 23, Oct. 1 and Oct. 14.

On Sept. 23, Jandi Hanna from the Housing Trust noted that the application is slightly more than half the size of the trust's original proposal in 2019.

The plan is now for 16 units containing 29 bedrooms in five buildings, set farther back from the road than the 2019 version and requiring one phase of construction work instead of two.

There are six one-bedroom apartments, seven two-bedroom apartments and three three-bedroom apartments.

Engineer George Johanna reported that the application meets the requirements for the town's Incentive Housing Zone.

Emily Jones, of Civil One Engineers and representing the applicant, said a traffic study showed "no negative impact" on traffic on River Road and Lime Rock Station Road.

Jones said that the state has the final say on water issues, and if the applicant cannot

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demonstrate there is no negative impact, then there is no project.

The Oct. 1 meeting was largely comments and questions. Laser began by reiterating that the hearing was on the site plan application, and that the commission would not discuss the legality of the Incentive Housing Zone.

"That's settled," he said. On Oct. 14, the first part of the scheduled two hours was devoted to reading letters supporting and opposing the proposal into the record. A running count had 24 letters in favor of the proposal, offset by one letter, with multiple signatures, in opposition.

After the vote on Oct. 22, P&Z Chair Fred Laser read letters opposing the development from Daly Reville, Laura Werntz and Colter Rule.

Reville, Werntz and Rule subsequently reiterated their objections to the housing plan at meetings of the Board of Selectmen and Finance.

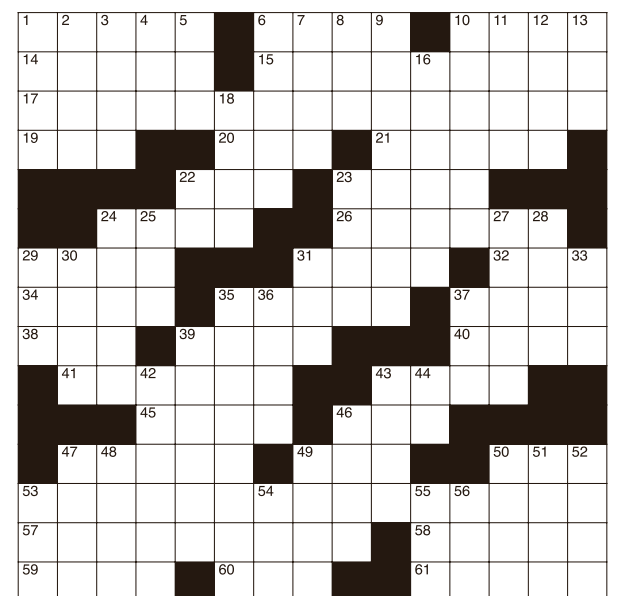
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Partner to "oohed"
6. Relaxing places
10. Humorous monologue
14. Simple elegance
15. Bearable
17. Disobedience
19. Express delight
20. Gov't attorneys
21. Wake up
22. A type of band
23. Remain as is
24. Turfs
26. Battle-ax
29. Volcanic crater
31. The mother of Jesus
32. One's life history
34. "Rule, Britannia" composer
35. Doubles
37. Jacob __, American journalist
38. House pet
39. S. African river
40. Broad sashes
41. Establish as a foundation
43. KGB double agent Aldrich __
45. Part of a book
46. Taxi
47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
49. Train group (abbr.)
50. Frames per second
53. Have surgery
57. Formal withdrawal from a federation
58. Guitarist sounds
59. Greek war god
60. 2,000 lbs.
61. Helps escape

CLUES DOWN

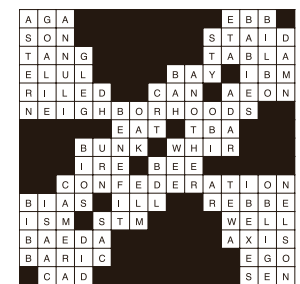
1. Currency exchange charge
2. River in Tuscany
3. Breakfast dish
4. Deceased European currency
5. Upper class young woman
6. Part of a purse
7. Self-contained units
8. Boxing's GOAT
9. Legislators
10. Flightless birds
11. U. of Miami's mascot is one
12. Floating ice
13. Low, marshy land
16. Seldom
18. Lyric poems
22. Law enforcement agency (abbr.)
23. Full extent of something
24. __ Claus
25. Naturally occurring solid material



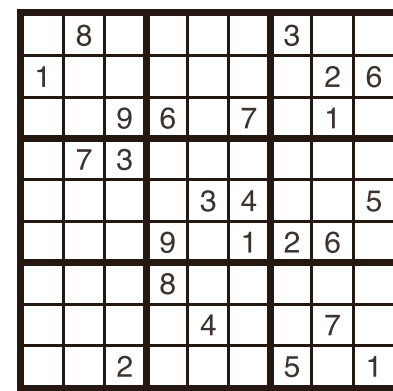
27. Acquired brain injury behavior science (abbr.)
28. Thirteen
29. Partner to cheese
30. Member of a Semitic people
31. One thousandth of an inch
33. Former CIA
35. Most lemony
36. Engage in
37. Small Eurasian deer
39. Provisions
42. All humans have them
43. Swiss river
44. Storage term (abbr.)
46. Famed Broadway lyricist Sammy
47. Dutch colonist
48. Full-grown pike fish
49. Egyptian sun god
50. Flute

51. Flew off!
52. Scottish tax
53. Young women's association
54. Populous Brazilian city
55. Malaysian Isthmus
56. Pointed end of a pen

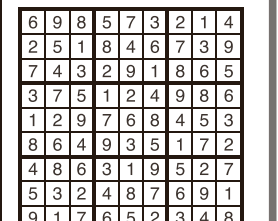
Dec. 24 & 31 Solution



Sudoku



Dec. 24 & 31 Solution



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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LITTLE GUILD

Staff at The Little Guild in West Cornwall practiced social distancing as they continued to care for (and find homes for) dogs and cats in 2020.

The Little Guild kept tails wagging

CORNWALL — Little Guild Executive Director Jenny Langendoerfer reported that the numbers of adoptions held steady compared with the previous successful year. In fact, she said it was a good year for pet adoptions nationwide.

The nonprofit shelter found new homes for very nearly 200 dogs and cats.

COVID-19 brought adjustments to procedures, according to Langendoerfer, who said that adoptions were by appointment only; and that volunteer support, essential to the organization, was limited by public health guidelines.

"It's remarkable how we've managed to thrive in spite of it all," Langendoerfer said.

A cat success story is that of Eclipse, who arrived at The Little Guild with a full complement of her kittens all jammed together in a small carrying case — all of them under-

standably terrified.

Having been homeless for 18 months before her arrival in Cornwall, for an additional 466 days she resided under the care of The Little Guild and in that time developed a firm friendship with a fellow feline, Princess. It was that bond that restored her good nature and ability to trust again. Both cats were adopted together by a local family and are equally loved in their new home.

Anticipating that 2021 will bring reinvigorated programs and community outreach, Langendoerfer said that the new year has brought a new president for the organization. Karen Doeblin was elected in late 2020 to serve as president of the Board of Directors. Doeblin is succeeding John Guenther, following his six-year tenure.

Langendoerfer praised Doeblin as "a positive force" possessing a gift for strategic

LOOKING BACK: 2020

LEILA HAWKEN

thinking, and above all demonstrating an abiding love for animals.

Returning to the organization as an officer will be Justin Vagliano, whose past service included the executive director's position. Four new board members were elected: Katherine O'Brien, Joan Osofsky, David Ott and Betsy Vorce.

It was the traditional Great Country Mutt Show in 2019 that attracted Doeblin to The Little Guild and its programs, although she and her family had adopted pets from the organization in years past. She said that she anticipates

that "fabulous events" will be scheduled as soon as possible in the post-pandemic future.

Having spent 20 years weekend in Litchfield County, Doeblin is now settled as a permanent resident of Cornwall. Her love of animals has spanned her lifetime and her adopted pets have been readily included as family members.

Managing to look ahead beyond the time of COVID-19, Langendoerfer is confident that The Little Guild will continue to thrive, thanks in large part to the many area residents who care about and support the organization.

In particular, the volunteer dog-walkers have been able to continue their program, as their activities can occur outdoors. She said that the organization is "amazingly fortunate" to benefit from the dedication of its volunteers.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following property transfers were recorded between July and the end of November at area town halls. For more transfers, see the Dec. 3, 10, 17 and 24 issues of The Lakeville Journal.

North Canaan

Sept. 9, 31 High St. from Winfield Shook et al. to Bridgeway Management LLC for \$225,000; and 33 High St. from Winfield Shook et al. to Bridgeway Management LLC for \$225,000.

Sept. 10, 38 Greene Ave. from Seana R. Fetterhoff to 38 Greene Avenue LLC for \$120,000; and 78 Granite Ave. from Janet Beaujon Couch to Jeffrey John Scarpa for \$330,000.

Sept. 14, 45 Old Turnpike

South from Shannon May Vernali et al. to Alyssa M. King for \$205,000.

Sept. 23, 11 College Hill Road from Robert J. Engling et al. to Eiran Gazit et al. for \$359,000.

Sept. 24, 3 Emmons Lane from Carolyn A. McDonough to Lemon Properties LLC for \$75,000.

Sept. 28, 6 East Main St. from Norska LLC to Community Health and Wellness Inc for \$360,000.

Sept. 30, 76 North Elm St. from Village Mortgage Company to Canfield Group LLC for \$135,000.

Oct. 1, 7 Mountain View Lane from Gary M. Orrell et al. to Jeffrey Michael Materna for \$385,000.

Protect your retirement funds

SHARON — An online Social Security and Retirement Income Maximization workshop presented by AAA Retirement Coach Bianca Noisoux will be hosted by the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon on Wednesday, Jan. 13 at 6 p.m.

The program provides an overview of Social Security retirement benefits for single, married, widowed and divorced beneficiaries. The topics discussed provide attendees information on how to:

- Increase your Social Security retirement income by up to 76%
- Receive Social Security income from ex or deceased spouse's earnings
- Replace Social Security income lost after spouse's death
- Understand how unprecedented sovereign debt will affect retirees
- Protect yourself from retirement's greatest threats

This 40-minute free workshop is recommended for ages 58 to 70 and is open to all area residents, but registration is required (bit.ly/AAARegister). There will be time for questions at the end. For more information, contact AAA Retire at 800-978-7953 or info@AAARetire.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WPSIR

Sales of homes in Litchfield County, and their prices, surged in 2020 as city residents fled metropolitan areas for lesser populated rural communities. This farmhouse in Sharon was listed and sold by Sotheby's over the summer for more than \$1 million.

A Litchfield County real estate surge and its consequences

The year ended with real estate sales continuing to boom in Litchfield County.

Real estate agents had their hands full, beginning in spring, with city residents urgently seeking to buy or rent properties up here, hoping to protect themselves and their families from the spread of COVID-19.

Somehow it all worked out, with sellers saying they were nervous about strangers coming to tour their for-sale properties — and with a notably high number of buyers agreeing to purchase properties that they had never seen in person.

Market statistics shared by William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty showed that even in November, when it seemed like there was nothing left to sell in the Northwest Corner, sales were up 71% over the previous year (with 171 single-family home sales).

In 2020 overall, sales were up 47% over 2019 in all towns except North Canaan.

Obedying the laws of sup-

ply and demand, the prices of houses also increased, by an estimate 32% over 2019. In a 19 town section of Litchfield County, the sale of houses in the \$2 to \$4 million price range tripled, with 36 sales in 2020. Sales in the 19 towns in the "over \$1 million range" increased by a 174%. In November alone there were 19 sales of "million dollar" homes, triple what was sold in the same month in 2019.

The sudden surge in newcomers of course had an impact on life in the Northwest Corner.

One change that was commented on by longtime residents: The combination of COVID-19 and the new residents led to a vast increase in the number of people taking daily walks along main roads and back roads. Much to the chagrin of drivers, many of the pedestrians wore dark clothing and often walked close to the center of the road; duos and trios would often spread out

LOOKING BACK: 2020

CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

across the roadway, walking side by side, even around blind curves.

A positive of the influx of newcomers was increased income for several local businesses. Some restaurants did very well this year despite COVID-19, with outdoor dining and take-out orders. And area grocery stores reported that they saw a dramatic increase in sales. Although stores became more crowded, on average, it was nice to see the businesses doing well — two stores were even able to invest in new cold cases for meats, vegetables and frozen food.

For an article on how the real estate surge impacted the region's schools, see the story on Page A1.



The Lakeville Journal Company

The Lakeville Journal • The Millerton News • TriCornerNews.com
Fostering Democracy and an Atmosphere of Open Communication Since 1897

This letter has been enclosed in print editions of The Lakeville Journal and Millerton News and on www.tricornernews.com. We invite all our readers to continue to keep track of our progress and we will keep you updated regularly.

Can you imagine a world without your Lakeville Journal or Millerton News?

Dear Reader,

Late in 2019, we came to you, hat in hand, to share with you our story within the world of vanishing local journalism. You generously supported us, to date, in the amount of \$164,975 in what was known as the "Community Membership" model and will now be known as the "Community Contributor" model.

- Your generosity made up a deeply appreciated 39% of annual General Expenses from September of 2019.
- We are happy to have qualified for a PPP loan (which we will convert to a 'grant', having met the necessary criteria), in the amount of \$146,643, contributing 35% of General Expenses during this same period.
- As they experienced their own COVID-19 cash needs, our steadfast advertisers needed to scale back their commitments to us. Our advertising revenue has dropped over 30%.
- Effective October 15, 2020, we have raised the cost of the newspaper to two dollars, the first increase since 2003.

COVID-19 has awakened an awareness of the significance of our papers, as we seek information about our world. Thanks to our Community's generosity and the unwavering dedication of our fine Team, we were able to remain fully functional through this pandemic. We love our Community partnership. We will continue our work, with your kind respect and support.

— The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC

Support your local, independent voice in journalism by making a contribution at www.tricornernews.com/contribute or by clipping the form below and mailing a check

The Lakeville Journal
PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039

Name _____
Address _____ Zip Code _____
Tele. _____ Email _____

In Support of our local Paper, enclosed please find my check/money order in the amount of \$_____ made payable to The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC.

In return for your Community Contribution, we regret that we cannot offer a tax deduction at this time.

Anna Belas

AMENIA — Anna Belas, 88, a longtime resident of Amenia, passed away Dec. 31, 2020, after an extended nursing home stay.

Mrs. Belas was a secretary to the Safety Department at the Wassaic Developmental Center for 18 years, retiring in 1994. She previously worked as a secretary at Pawling Corporation.

Born on Aug. 26, 1932, in New York, N.Y., she was the daughter of the late Elizabeth (Sutek) and Samuel Klvac. On May 23, 1953, in New York, she married Paul Belas, who predeceased her on Oct. 25, 2017.

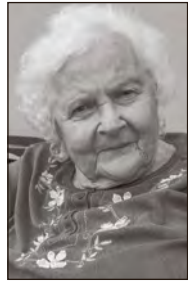
She was a passionate cook and canner and enjoyed crocheting and coloring and sitting in the warmth of the sun. She loved watching "Dancing

With the Stars" and reading her tabloid magazines. She spoke adoringly about her grandchildren.

Mrs. Belas is survived by two daughters, Brenda Rennia and her husband, Carl Michael, of Amenia, and Cindy Langiu and her husband, Americo, of Dover Plains; a son, Edward Belas and his wife, Wendy, of Altoona, Fla.; and two grandchildren, Claudia and Griffin Langiu.

In addition to her parents and husband, Mrs. Belas was predeceased by a son, Robert Belas.

Funeral services were private and arranged by Hufcut Funeral Home in Dover Plains. Burial was at Valley View Cemetery in Dover Plains.



Susan Jane Bohlin

WEST CORNWALL — Susan Jane Bohlin died in San Diego, Calif., on Dec. 10, 2020, at the age of 77.

Susan was 14 when given a medal for "good sportsmanship." Respect, integrity, grace combined with the welcoming of diversity and a refusal to give up determined the way she lived her life.

While living in West Cornwall, she worked at Ellsworth Hill Farm and also volunteered

at Audubon. After moving to San Diego, her commitments were accounting related to agriculture; PACE and the literacy program at St. Vincent de Paul, for which she was given an award from the city of San Diego; a PhD in Economics from UCSD; and traveling to remote areas of the world.

Memorial donations may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.



Adele Louise Bushnell

SALISBURY — Adele Louise Bushnell, 93, died peacefully, surrounded by her family, on Dec. 30, 2020, at Noble Horizons.

Adele was born on Jan. 17, 1927, at home in Salisbury. She was the daughter of the late George Bushnell and Hazel (Brown) Bushnell, both of Salisbury.

She was married to the late Howard W. "Buzzy" Morey Sr., also of Salisbury.

Adele worked for more than 20 years as a housekeeper, the last seven of which were spent at Noble Horizons.

Adele's greatest passion was spending quality time with her family. She loved her family tremendously. She cared for many of her grandchildren throughout their childhood and could often be spotted with Buzzy at their sports and school events.

She enjoyed traveling with her family to Vermont each fall, as well as to Lake George and Florida.

Adele was also an avid bingo player and enjoyed trips to Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun.

Adele is survived by her brothers, Louis Bushnell, of North Canaan, Ralph Bushnell and his wife, June, of Florida, and Harold Bushnell and his wife, Audrey, of New York; her sisters-in-law, Jeanette Bush-

nell of New York and Carol Bushnell of Florida; her children, Darlene Wellersdick and her husband, Vaughn, of Sharon, Chris Morey and his wife, Anne Minacci-Morey, of Prince Edward Island, Canada, Howard W. Morey Jr. and his wife, Melanie, of Fort Valley, Ga., Jerry Morey and his wife, Tina Sawyer Morey, of Ashley Falls, Mass., Danny Morey and his partner, Colaine, of North Canaan, Lisa Moyers and her husband, Bruce, of East Longmeadow, Mass., and Hazel Morey and her friend, Scott, of North Canaan; 13 grandchildren and their families, Jerry Jr., Joshua, Brittni, Joseph, Ciarra, Kylie, Shane, Lily, Jonathan, Steven, Haven, Brianna and Tristina; nine great-grandchildren; and many close friends whom she loved dearly.

She was predeceased by her son, Earl Morey II, of Salisbury; her brothers, George Bushnell and his wife, Dee, Robert Bushnell and Sammy Bushnell; and her sister-in-law Effie Bushnell.

The family will hold services for Adele in the spring of 2021. Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk Palmer Funeral Home in North Canaan.

Memorial contributions can be sent to the Bitterman Center in North Canaan.



Jane (Lyon) Bly

WASSAIC and DOVER PLAINS — Jane (Lyon) Bly, 99, a lifelong area resident, died Jan. 2, 2021, at Sharon Health Care Center following a lengthy illness.

Jane Lyon was born on St. Patrick's Day in 1921 to the late Edna (Lawless) and John Patrick Lyon of Schultsville, N.Y. She graduated from Rhinebeck High School, Class of 1938, and attended the College of Mount Saint Vincent.

Jane served as Secretary to the President of Bennett College in Millbrook for 25 years. After retiring from Bennett, it was her pleasure to travel frequently to Ireland, the home of her ancestors.

She was interested in photography and poetry. Her photographs appeared in Agway Cooperative and Country magazine. Her published poetry was also inspired by life on the farm. She was a member of the Amenia Historical Society for many years.

On Sept. 28, 1956, she married Harry L. Bly in Danbury, Conn. They owned and operated First Settler Farm in Wassaic from 1962 to 1998.

Mr. Bly died in December of 1998, and Jane moved to Dover Plains in 2001.

Jane asked that her family and friends remember their many joyful gatherings: the

music, the stories, the love and the laughter.

Jane is survived by her daughter, Patricia McNamara Cassidy and her husband, Harry, of Dover Plains; two stepdaughters, Evelyn Bunch of Palmer, Ark., and Laura Dennis and her husband, George, of Brantingham, N.Y.; a daughter-in-law, Jane H. Bly of Millbrook; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews and many friends.

In addition to her parents and husband, Jane was predeceased by her son, John Edwards of Red Lodge, Mont., in 2018; a stepdaughter, Lucy Bly of Mesa, Ariz.; a stepson, Harry J. Bly of Millbrook; and her sister, Mary Lyon DeWitz of Winter Park, Fla.

Graveside services and burial will take place on Thursday, Jan. 7, at 11 a.m. at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Flanders Lane off Route 7 in Kent. The Rev. Francis Fador will officiate.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Amenia Free Library, P.O. Box 27, Amenia, NY 12501.

To send an online condolence, plant a tree or send flowers to the family, go to www.conklinfuneralhome.com.



Thomas James Dahoney III

MILLERTON — Thomas James Dahoney III, 69, a seven year resident of Millerton and formerly of Millbrook, died unexpectedly on Dec. 29, 2020, at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital.

Tucker, as he was more affectionately known, worked at Rally Farms, a Black Angus farm, in Millbrook for 44 years prior to his retirement in 2013. Following his retirement he worked for North View Custom Farming in Amenia.

Born June 20, 1951, in Sharon, he was the son of the late Anna (Downey) and Thomas James Dahoney Jr.

He was a graduate of Webutuck High School and attended Dutchess Community College.

He served in the United States Army as an Army medic during the Vietnam War from 1971 until his honorable discharge in 1973.

On Sept. 3, 1983, at St. Patrick's Church in Millerton, he married Marva Kimball. Mrs. Dahoney survives at home in Millerton.

Tucker absolutely loved farming and being outdoors. He enjoyed hunting and fishing in his spare time also.

He was a life member of the Millerton American Legion Post #178 and was a longtime parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia.

In addition to his beloved wife, Tucker is survived by his siblings, Kathleen Frisenda and her husband, Robert, Peter Dahoney and his wife, Sheila, Ellen Fontaine and her husband, Patrick, Lisa Riley and her husband, Kevin, and James Dahoney and his wife, Dianna; his sisters-in-law, Rena Wood and Eloise Smith and her husband, Kevin; several aunts, uncles and cousins; many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and -nephews; and numerous friends.

He was predeceased by two sisters, Mary Eileen Dahoney and Patricia (Dahoney) Hinck; and his brother, Kevin Dahoney.

Due to COVID, private visitation took place on Dec. 31. A private Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Wednesday, Jan. 6, at Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia, the Rev. Robert K. Wilson officiating.

A Memorial Mass for family and friends will be announced at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the Millerton American Legion Post #178, 155 Route 44, Millerton, NY 12546.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton.

OBITUARIES

Jeannette T. (Langevin) Birdsall

FALLS VILLAGE — Jeannette T. (Langevin) Birdsall, 89, passed peacefully on Dec. 27, 2020, at the Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. She was the widow of Richard E. Birdsall.

Jeannette was born in Waterbury, Conn., on Sept. 17, 1931, daughter of the late Alphonsine (Montambault) and Alcide Langevin.

After moving from Canada, Jeannette's family settled in the Waterbury area, where she was the only child born as a U.S. citizen. She lived there before moving on to Danbury and finally to Falls Village.

She worked to make her home the best it could be for her family.

She loved all animals but had a special place for dogs

and cats. Jeannette loved her family but was especially devoted to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her son, Steve Birdsall and his wife, Sue, of Kansas; her grandchildren, Richard, Melissa, Kevin, Jennifer and Stephanie; and her great-grandchildren, Charles, Jon, Katelin, Alex and Matthew.

Jeannette was predeceased by her daughter, Jacqueline Hamilton.

Funeral services will be held at the convenience of the family.

Memorial donations may be sent to The Last Post, 95 Belden St., Falls Village, CT 06031.

The Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home in North Canaan was in charge of arrangements.

For more obituaries, see page A6

Worship Services Week of January 10, 2021

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

<p>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 Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>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 YouTube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Greenwoods Community Church 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</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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 A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>	<p>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 (860) 435-2627 www.trinitylimerock.org</p>
<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9am Email Rev. Mary Gates at: 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!</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Join our virtual service on Sunday, January 10 at 10:30 a.m. "Is your glass half full or half empty?" For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:30 a.m. Worship Service Sunday School 9:15 a.m. "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Margaret Laemmel 860-435-9496 lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>
<p>Sharon Congregational Church 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for current online sermons. Bible Study Guides also available by request: info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org Or contact us at 860-364-5002</p>	<p>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 ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH 860-927-3003 The Churches of Sacred Heart, Kent St. Bernard, Sharon 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</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Congregational Worship Sunday, 10 am Cornwall Village Meeting House 8 Bolton Hill Rd, Cornwall Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 FB - UCC in Cornwall Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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 canaanctumc@gmail.com</p>

Jean Marie Lee

FALLS VILLAGE — Jean Marie (Logan) Lee, 84, of Falls Village (formerly of South Attleboro, Mass.), passed away peacefully, in the comfort of her home, surrounded by her adoring family on Jan. 1, 2021.

She was the beloved wife of Robert E. Lee, to whom she was wed for the past 59 years.

Born in Attleboro, Mass., on April 13, 1936, she was a loving daughter of the late Georgiana A. (Lumnah) and Vincent H. Logan. She was predeceased by her sister, Margaret J. Warchal; and brother, Walter B. Logan.

Jean grew up in Attleboro and was a 1954 graduate of Attleboro High School. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

She worked for more than 37 years as office manager for College Hill Bookstore/Dulgarian Properties in Providence, R.I. As Kenneth Dulgarian so eloquently put at her retirement party in October of 2017, "Jean was the calm in every storm!" And that is how Jean lived her life: calmly with an abundance of dignity and grace.

Jean enjoyed traveling and went on numerous trips and

cruises with her husband. She enjoyed reading, dining out, playing cards and keeping in regular touch with friends, going all the way back to her high school years.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her loving children, Robert E. Lee Jr. and his wife,

Mary-Anne of Hudson, Ohio, and Cynthia (Lee) Conklin of Falls Village; her four grandchildren, Brigid and Connor Lee of Hudson, Melissa Rabbitt and her husband, Adam Lomazoff, of Waltham, Mass., Jaime Lee Conklin of New Haven, Conn.; and her two great-grandchildren, Greyson and Cooper (of Waltham, Mass.); and several nieces and nephews.

Her Catholic Funeral Mass, which relatives and friends are cordially invited to attend, will be celebrated in the Spring of 2021 (date to be determined).

Those wishing to remember Jean with a donation to Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County, 32 Union St., Winsted, CT 06098.

To send Jean's family a message of condolence or remembrance, go to www.duffy-poule.com.



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Send obituaries to cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com

Rand Scott 'Randy' Krakenberg

MILLERTON — Rand Scott "Randy" Krakenberg, 56, a lifelong area resident, died Dec. 29, 2020, at his home in Millerton.

Randy worked as a self-employed professional carpenter and contractor throughout most of his life and was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need.

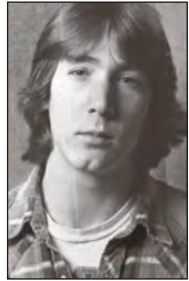
Born Oct. 12, 1964, in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., he was the son of the late Claude Krakenberg and Nancy Vermetta Hamilton.

He attended Webutuck High School in Amenia and received his GED in 1983.

He was a member of the Millerton Presbyterian Church and was an active member and sponsor of Alcoholics Anonymous, where he was known as an understanding and empathetic friend.

In his spare time he was an avid dirt bike rider and enjoyed dirt bike racing.

He also enjoyed riding his bicycle on the Harlem Valley Rail Trail and watching his favorite football team, the New



York Jets.

He will be dearly missed by his family and many friends.

Randy is survived by his longtime companion, Barbara L. Reeves and her daughter, Chaneen J. Reeves, of Millerton; two sisters, Deborah Wilkerson and her husband, Bill Haviland, of Millerton and Carol Lang of Carmel, N.Y.; his brother, Claude Krakenberg of Hopewell Junction, N.Y.; three nephews, Shannon Clark and Tony Clark of Millerton and Chris Wilkerson and his wife, Heather, of Copake; one niece; six great-nieces and -nephews; two cousins, Heather Besze and Neal Hamilton; and his "Uncle Al" and many friends.

A celebration of life will be announced at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the local chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton.

To send an online condolence, go to www.conklinfuneralhome.com.

James Thornton Metz Jr.

SHARON — James Thornton Metz Jr. of Longboat Key, Fla., the beloved husband of Kathleen (McGowan) Metz for more than 56 years, died peacefully on Dec. 29, 2020, at the age of 82.

Raised in Garden City, N.Y., he was the son of the late James Thornton Metz and Eleanor (Bechtoldt) Metz. He graduated from Garden City High School and Colgate University and served in the United States Army.

Mr. Metz was chairman of the family-owned and operated Metz Holdings and related petroleum and real estate entities that he founded, including The New Yorker restaurant and The Hamilton Inn. He moved to the rural countryside in the Sharon area 46 years ago after his favorite dog, Derby, was killed on a busy avenue in Garden City.

He continued to maintain a summer residence in Sharon and in Blue Rocks, Nova Scotia.

He was a devoted parishioner at St. Mary's Star of the Sea (Longboat Key, Fla.) and Immaculate Conception (Amenia).

Every December for many years, excluding the current year due to COVID-19 restrictions, he helped arrange shepherds, donkeys, a camel and llamas for a live nativity at the church in Amenia, to the delight of many.

One of his favorite hobbies was raising and showing Aberdeen Angus, winning in 1984 the Supreme Champion All-American Angus Breed-



ers' Futurity with Cobble Pond New Yorker.

Over the years, he provided a refuge for rescue animals and retired horses on the farm.

Mr. Metz was a member of the Sharon Country Club, Tamarack Preserve, Longboat Key Club and the Lunenburg Yacht Club.

Survivors, in addition to his wife, include his loving children, Alicia, Lauren Simons, both of Sharon, Kathryn (Lloyd) Helm of Loudonville, N.Y., James (Victoria) of Franklin, Tenn., Robert (Robin) of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., Margaret of Philadelphia; and his brother-in-law, G. Lawrence McGowan of Newtown, Conn. He is also survived by nine cherished grandchildren, Lillian Simons, William, Grace, and Eleanor Helm, Naomi and James Metz, and Robert, Henry and Charles Metz.

Mr. Metz was predeceased by his two brothers, Richard K. Metz and D. Craig Metz.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated on Jan. 9 at 11 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia. The Rev. R. Kent Wilson will officiate per New York State official health guidelines.

Burial is private at Hillside Cemetery in Sharon.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sharon Volunteer Fire and Ambulance, P.O. Box 357, Sharon, CT 06069.

Arrangements are under the care of the Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon.

Marian (Shea) Smith

MILLERTON — Marian (Shea) Smith, 94, a 65-year resident of Millerton, died peacefully on Dec. 15, 2020, at Sharon Hospital with family at her bedside.

Mrs. Smith worked as a health care aide at Noble Horizons in Salisbury for over 20 years prior to her retirement.

Born Oct. 30, 1926, in Brooklyn, N.Y., she was the daughter of the late Marian (Scheurer) and Joseph Shea.

Following her graduation from high school she married Stanley G. Smith in Pennsylvania in 1945 and briefly resided in Long Island, N.Y., before moving to Millerton with their young family. They shared 50 years together before Mr. Smith's passing on July 30, 1995.

Over the course of six-plus decades in Millerton, Marian worked for Keuffel & Esser in Millerton and wrote a weekly column for The Millerton News. Her "Cracker Barrel" column focused on weekly events and happenings in and around Millerton and was enjoyed by many.

She was a Realtor for Scaderpane Realty in Millerton and one of her proudest accomplishments was founding and operating Thriftique, a thrift shop in Millerton from which she donated all the proceeds to the Astor Head Start-Millerton Day Care.

She was a longtime parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia and in her spare time volunteered with the North East Historical Society.

She will be dearly missed by her loving family and her many friends throughout the village.

Marian is survived by her loving son, Michael C. Smith and his wife, Cindy Dieter-Smith, of Millerton; her dear brother, Jim McElroy and his wife, Bobbie, of Hoschtown, Ga.; her devoted grandchildren, Christopher S. Najdek and his girlfriend, Heather Farr, Jennifer M. Najdek, Donald P. Najdek and Dustin C. Smith and his girlfriend, Erin



Gannon; her great-grandchildren, Lindsey, Emiley and Lily Najdek and their mother, Renee, Spencer and Hannah Parks and their father, Jamie Parks, and Allegra and Nikka Najdek and their mother, Kamilla; and Wilma Vigano, a foreign exchange student who became her "second daughter."

In addition to her parents and husband, she was predeceased by her beloved daughter Mariley Smith Najdek in 2014.

There are no calling hours due to the pandemic. Graveside services and burial will take place at Irondale Cemetery in Millerton in 2021 and will be announced in The Millerton News and on the funeral home website in the future. The Rev. Robert K. Wilson will officiate.

Memorial contributions may be made to the North East Historical Society, P.O. Box 727, Millerton, NY 12546; or Astor Head Start-Millerton Day Care, 11 Park St., Millerton, NY 12546.

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

To send an online condolence, send flowers or plant a tree in Marian's memory, go to www.conklinfuneralhome.com.

OBITUARIES

For more obituaries, see page A5

Carolyn Neugeboren

LAKEVILLE — Carolyn Neugeboren, 88, of Lakeville passed away on Dec. 31, 2020, at her home.

Born in the Bronx, N.Y., on July 2, 1932, she lived for many years with her devoted husband, the late Myron Neugeboren, at homes in New York and Connecticut.

She is survived by her loving sons, Harlan, Robert and Edward; her daughters-in-law, Laurel, Beverly and Sandra;

and her grandchildren, Ross, Samantha, Jonah, Olivia, Abigail, Alexandra, Annaleah and Ashlyn.

Carolyn was the beloved grande dame of the family, who loved to cook, collect folk art, and make her homes welcoming to all who visited.

Known for her mottos "Food is Love," and "Old is Good," her memory will be cherished by the many, many who loved her.

Lila Frances Zlotoff

SHARON — Lila Frances Zlotoff (nee Paley) quietly and peacefully took her last breath with her family at her bedside on Dec. 14, 2020.

Lila lived for 96 years; she was predeceased by Robert "Bob" Zlotoff, to whom she was married for nearly 70 years; and she is survived by her sister, Gladys Baker; as well as her four devoted children and their spouses, Dr. Howard and Fern Zlotoff, Dr. Ron Zlotoff and Donna Kemper, Jerry and Rhonda Zlotoff and Sue and Dr. Eric Unger.

Lila had 12 adored grandchildren, Barrett, Jordan, Alisa, Lindsay, Daniel, Corey, Ben, Jesse, Lauren, Jason, Ari and Aimee; and 13 sweet great-grandchildren, Eli, Jackson, Nathaniel, Sawyer, Cleo, Jacob, Anna, June, Sam, Laughlin, Zeke, Isaac and Emma.

Lila was predeceased by her sister, Mae Benson; and her brother, Morris Paley

Lila was born in a cabin perched over the Housatonic River in Cornwall Bridge on July 30, 1924, then raised on the Paley Farm in Sharon.

A graduate of Danbury State Teachers College, Lila got her degree in teaching, which was her passion and, later, her vocation.

Her life's adventures truly began after a blind date with Bob in 1944, a Navy pilot at the time, who was visiting her neighboring town while on leave from his air base.

After her wedding in 1946 Lila became a devoted and loving wife and mother. The family resided in Manhasset Hills, N.Y., for many years.

Her general parenting style can be summed up in a single sentence: "GO OUTSIDE AND PLAY."

Although she displayed no prowess in the kitchen, her coleslaw, baked macaroni and

cheese, My-T-Fine chocolate pudding and mandelbrot remain solid comfort foods for her family and always elicit broad smiles. Her four children also developed an odd appreciation for food that is slightly burnt.

A teacher at heart and a lover of words, Lila loved Scrabble and reading The New York Times and working on the Sunday crossword puzzle. As her children grew, so did her inner voice, and she became active for many years in the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), eventually serving a term as local chapter president. Her personality morphed from "you must march to the beat of the drummer" to... "create waves and let your voice be heard."

Lila had a deep appreciation for nature, which she instilled in her children; she preferred to be outside or always have a window open, and loved birds and big dogs. She enjoyed playing tennis and bowled in a league for many years

Later in her life, Lila honed the ability to leave her entire family with jaws agape. Once, she marched into a kosher butcher shop in New Jersey and asked the clerk behind the counter if he'd like to come to Connecticut to meet her daughter. This young man became her son-in-law.

She maintained a child-like quality and was willing to sleep in a tent with her grandchildren, help to stage their holiday plays, listen to them, and most importantly, open her heart to share their stories.

We are all individuals of confounding complexity. Lila could be a force of nature and a sweet person when she wanted to be either. Memories of Lila will be cherished by her family.



Dolores Sue (Palanker) Laschever

GOSHEN — Dolores Laschever, a distinguished journalist and longtime Connecticut resident, died on Dec. 22, 2020, in Simsbury, Conn. She was 92.

Born in Buffalo, N.Y., Dolores was the daughter of Rose (Banditson) and Meyer N. Palanker.

Her father was a furrier and her mother owned a dress shop. The first in her extended family to attend college, she earned a journalism degree from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where she wrote for the Michigan Daily, joined Theta Sigma Phi, the Association for Women Journalists, and met her future husband, Barnett D. Laschever.

Following her 1950 graduation, Dolores and her husband moved to Connecticut, where she worked in the communications department at Hartford's Wadsworth Atheneum before embarking with her husband on an extended trip that eventually took them all the way around the world. Through Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and on to China, they traveled by car and train, seaplane and bicycle, on the backs of burros, horses and camels, and on rickety buses that lurched and slid through mountain passes from Switzerland to northern India. After close to a year on the road, they boarded an ocean liner in Hong Kong and steamed back to the U.S. in steerage.

In 1955, Dolores and her husband relocated briefly to New York City and then East Brunswick, N.J. They came back to Connecticut in 1965, moving into an old farmhouse in Goshen, where they raised their family. Returning to work when her youngest child began school, Dolores spent the next four decades as a reporter, photographer and editor for the Litchfield Enquirer, the Torrington Register-Cit-

izen, The Lakeville Journal and the Hartford Courant, for which she wrote occasional columns about happenings in the state's Northwest Corner. She mentored generations of young journalists, and was an avid gardener, animal lover and renowned cook who welcomed generations of extended family and friends to gather around her dinner table. She remained an adventurous traveler, even going on African safari when she was 78.

In Goshen, where she lived for 45 years, Dolores was a member of the Agricultural Society and volunteered for numerous local organizations. She served on the boards of the Nutmeg Ballet Company and Child and Family Services of Torrington.

Predeceased by her son Adam in 1997 and her husband in 2014, Dolores is survived by her son Jonathan and Jonathan's wife, Kathryn, of Branford, Conn.; her daughters Sara Laschever and her husband, Tim Riley, of Concord, Mass., Ann-Rebecca Laschever and her husband, Claudio Kupchik of Woodmere, N.Y., and Valerie Chausse and her husband, Keith, of Litchfield; as well as 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Dolores will be interred following a private graveside ceremony at the Goshen Center Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked for donations to the Melanoma Research Foundation, Alzheimer's Research Foundation or the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Arrangements are entrusted to Weinstein Mortuary, Hartford. For further information and to sign the guest book for Dolores, visit online at www.weinsteinmortuary.com/funeral-obituary/dolores-sue-laschever/.

Hannah Elizabeth Vogt

FALLS VILLAGE — Hannah Elizabeth Vogt, 43, passed away on Dec. 27, 2020, from complications of an ischemic stroke at UCONN Health Center.

Beloved daughter of R. Carl Vogt Jr. and Virginia (Scranton) Vogt, she was born on Dec. 10, 1977, in Hartford.

She graduated from Canton High School and attended SCSU and UCONN. She worked for 20 years at Orthopedic Associates of Central Connecticut in Bloomfield and had recently accepted a position with VOYA Financial in Windsor.

She is also survived by her brother and best friend, Sam-

uel Vogt and his wife, Sarah; her nieces, Isabella and Aivery Vogt; her aunts, Lissa and Susan Vogt and Elizabeth (Scranton) Rhoades and her husband, Sandy; and her cousins, Michael and Jessica Rhoades.

No calling hours or services are planned at this time. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Foodshare, 450 Woodland Ave., Bloomfield, CT 06002; or to Canton Volunteer Fire and EMS, P.O. Box 168, Collinsville, CT 06022.

The Vincent Funeral Home of Canton is caring for the arrangements. Go to Hannah's "Book of Memories" at www.vincentfuneralhome.com for online tributes.

Send obituaries to cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com

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Our Towns

A year of car parades and protests on town Greens

Although this was a year when large indoor gatherings were discouraged because of COVID-19, there were plenty of outdoor gatherings, including protests in all the area towns against injustice toward Black Americans.

The protests were often large and always peaceful. Everyone wore face masks.

Unusually, many of the protesters were teens and college students; unusual because, often in the Northwest Corner, protests are mostly attended by retirees, including many who participated in historic anti-war and civil rights protests of the mid and early 20th century.

Not all the gatherings last year were protests about police brutality and civil rights. There was also a protest in Salisbury related to proposed cuts to postal service; and there was a memorial service on the Salisbury Green led by state Rep. Maria Horn following the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

A new wrinkle on group gatherings this year were car

LOOKING BACK: 2020 CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

parades, which allowed groups to express strong feelings while remaining in the relative safety (from COVID-19) of their cars and trucks. There were memorial parades and birthday parades. Groups of teachers drove by the homes of students to wave and let the youngest among them know they weren't forgotten. There were graduation parades in spring, including the ceremony at Lime Rock Park for the Class of 2020 at Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

And there was a traditional Northwest Corner car parade: Lime Rock Park couldn't hold its normal Labor Day weekend historic and vintage car festival, but car owners from the area turned out for the annual parade that normally kicks off the vintage festivities.



PHOTOS BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

Litchfield County residents came together on the Salisbury Green in front of The White Hart in May to protest police action following the murder of George Floyd, who was killed during an arrest in Minnesota on May 25, 2020.

Following Eversource's 2020 fumbles, state begins overhaul of energy billing

Eversource became the power company that Northwest Corner residents loved to hate in 2020, after the company fumbled in its response to several major storms — most notably Tropical Storm Isaias in August.

The power of the storm and an accompanying tornado knocked trees down throughout the region (and blew apart greenhouses at Paley's Farm Market in Sharon), which shut down major roads for several days and also left some power company customers without electricity for several days.

Only a few days before the weather events, the power company had announced that it was seeking permission to increase rates from the state's Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA).

During the storm, Eversource was criticized not only for not having enough workers on the ground to repair the damaged lines; but also for poorly communicating when power was likely to be restored.

Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont and Attorney General William Tong chastised Eversource during the PURA hearing shortly after the storms, accusing the company of putting profits in the pockets of top executives while cutting back on workers on the ground. Anecdotally, power company

workers in the Northwest Corner supported that criticism.

Eversource, meanwhile, blamed its purchase of the Millstone power plant on the increase in costs. The company also blamed hot summer weather for an increase in use that led to an increase in costs; an email sent out to Eversource customers in December similarly warned that a cold winter, with many people working from home and doing distance learning, could also increase electricity costs.

The PURA initially approved the rate hike, but suspended it after customers said their electric bills dramatically increased, sometimes doubling.

Meanwhile, PURA did a study of how customers ended up with such dramatically higher power rates last summer and part of what it discovered was that much of the Eversource billing process was based on estimates of power usage.

The agency announced on

LOOKING BACK: 2020 CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Dec. 2 a major overhaul of how electric fees will be determined.

The PURA website explains that their "investigation determined that the current framework is problematic because it relies heavily on forecasts, which are inherently incorrect, and depending on the degree to which the forecasts are wrong — like in 2020 — can result in wild swings in a customer's bill from one month to the next as the utilities essentially work to course correct the associated rates."

PURA Chairman Marissa P. Gilett said in the announcement that the change should create more stability in billing: "The new process will rely on actual revenues and approved expenses from the previous calendar year as a proxy for ex-

pected costs when determining the going-forward rates, which will prevent the yo-yo effect that is witnessed when forecasts are dramatically off-base."

The agency also found that Eversource was charging interest to customers because the power company was purchasing energy ahead of time based on estimates of what it thought the public would use: "The current process also compensates the utilities at, what PURA determined through this proceeding, to be an unjustifiably high rate (the weighted average cost of capital) for carrying charges associated with these expenditures."

Eversource will no longer be able to decide its own interest rates; they will have to use the federal prime rate, which is generally several points lower than what the power company was charging.

PURA is also beginning a redesign of Eversource bills, so that it's easier for customers to see what they are actually paying.

First wave of vaccines in Connecticut

Gov. Ned Lamont sends out updates on COVID-19 in Connecticut almost every day. His live report links to the state's COVID-19 portal, which has graphs, charts, maps and statistics relating to the spread of the disease.

In his report on Monday, Jan. 4, the governor gave an update on vaccinations in the state.

"As of today," according to the report, "hospitals and long-term care facilities in Connecticut have reported to the state that they have administered the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine to 75,180 people."

"All of the doses under this first phase of the state's COVID-19 vaccine

program are being administered to people in the health-care workforce, and residents and staff of long-term care facilities, including nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

"The Lamont administration is estimating that all nursing homes in Connecticut will have finished administering the first dose of the vaccine to their residents and staff by Friday, Jan. 8. Assisted living facilities began administering the vaccine today.

"Connecticut is among the first eight states in the United States that have administered the vaccine to more than 2% of its population."

— Cynthia Hochswender

Winter will offer time to get septic plan ready for votes

CORNWALL — After countless hours over many years of information-gathering and meetings by the West Cornwall Septic Study Group to share ideas and explore septic treatment options for the village of West Cornwall, that information has coalesced into a proposal.

Due to the COVID-19 uncertainties, however, the Board of Selectmen recently agreed to put off until spring of 2021 the next steps, including public hearing, town meeting and eventual vote by referendum.

The intervening winter months will also allow time for the Board of Finance to review cost and funding projections to provide more definite estimates to residents at a public hearing. Once the estimates are firm, the finance board will be better able to approve the proposal, enabling the town to move it on to a public hearing.

By spring, the hope is that social distancing restrictions may be loosened enough to provide more safety at an indoor meeting.

Grant funding from the federal Department of Agriculture (USDA) is a good possibility and it could contribute up to 45% of the project costs. Regulations require, however, that the town referendum approve the project, before the USDA decides finally on the grant award.

LOOKING BACK: 2020 LEILA HAWKEN

One necessary step, an approval from the Planning and Zoning Commission, was achieved at a meeting in mid-October. The commission's review of the Town Plan showed that the project as proposed was consistent with the town's conservation and development plans.

At the start of 2020, there had been a request from WMC Engineers of Newington for an additional payment of \$6,000 to complete their work on project plans and to complete the USDA grant application. That application required numerous elements of engineering detail.

The selectmen asked the West Cornwall Septic Committee to vote to approve the request for additional payment. That approval came in mid-February.

Early March brought the onset of concerns about COVID-19, and the Town Hall closed in mid-March. In early April, the West Cornwall Septic Committee paused meeting, although they indicated that Stephen McDonnell of WMC would continue work on the USDA application.

In mid-June, McDonnell announced that the USDA application was submitted and being processed.

A possible home for the facility

In the aftermath of a July fire at the late Barbara Farnsworth's shop in West Cornwall, the selectmen began to consider whether that site might see future use as a location for the West Cornwall wastewater processing facility.

The former site of the old West Cornwall firehouse standing adjacent to the Farnsworth property was discussed in August by the selectmen, who felt that it could afford the Farnsworth heirs the advantage of off-road parking for a car or two next to the shop.

The sale of the tiny parcel could be effected for \$500, but the Farnsworths are now awaiting results of an environmental study, looking for any contaminants that would require soil remediation. Once those results are in and the Farnsworths agree to the purchase, a town meeting would be needed to approve the sale of the little parcel which is assessed at \$200.

As COVID-19 continued its spread into the cold-weather months, the selectmen agreed that moving the public consideration of the West Cornwall Septic Project to the spring was the most prudent action.



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TWIN LAKES

Continued from Page A1

the health of West Twin Lake. Members of the Twin Lakes Association and owners of property along the shores of West Twin have expressed hopes that the owner, Jeffrey Keenan, is correct.

But Michael Klemens, a Salisbury resident who has spent more than three decades integrating science into land use and public policy decisions, feels that it's not the causeway that's impacting the lake; it's the dam.

He also is concerned that different interest groups are making claims about what is best for the lake that are not based on research and science.

"This is not an issue of those who live on the lakes and those who do not, but an issue of taking actions that will support the health of the lake based on science, not conjecture, and certainly not on the whim of a single individual," Klemens said.

The dam on West Twin

Klemens believes it is the dam on the upper arm of the West Twin Lake (also known as Lake Washinee) that limits the outflow of Lake Washinee's waters — not the abandoned railroad causeway. He feels that Keenan's claims that removing the causeway are disingenuous and that the real reasons for wanting the break the conservation easement on the causeway (which was put in place in 1990) is Keenan's desire to improve the view from his property and keep boats farther away from his house.

Klemens' opinion on the cause of the low water levels in West Twin is based on a review of published studies, maps and remote sensing imagery.

His investigation included a careful reading of a 105-page Twin Lakes management plan from 2015 that was funded through a state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) grant.

"In that report, it is clearly stated that the dam is the major contributing factor [to lake health problems], not the causeway," Klemens said.

He said he is surprised that

"In that report, it is clearly stated that the dam is the major contributing factor [to lake health problems], not the causeway."

Michael Klemens

data contained in the 2015 lake study "has not surfaced" in presentations by Keenan about his proposal to remove a 400-foot section of the causeway.

Keenan has made several presentations about his plan, and has done radio and newspaper interviews. He recently hosted a video presentation to the Twin Lakes Association by his lead environmental consultant, Timothy Abbott, who is a respected local land conservation expert and who works with the Housatonic Valley Association and leads its Greenprint program (the presentation and other documentation relating to Keenan's plan can be found online at <https://bit.ly/rcauseway>).

Questions of science

Klemens attended the Dec. 21 Zoom meeting for the Lake Association members.

He noted that Abbott (Keenan's consultant), "carefully outlined, despite repeated interruptions, the scope of research that would be required to answer the many scientific questions about the proposed project, and made a clear distinction between conservation benefits versus recreational and aesthetic concerns of lake property owners."

Abbott, said Klemens, was also quite clear that this process "would involve detailed studies, a hierarchy of regulatory approvals, and was precedent-setting in the physical diminishment of the actual amount of land under conservation easement."

In an interview last week, Abbott acknowledged that the 2015 Twin Lakes study "contains valuable data, but there is more to talk about. I don't argue that the dam has had an impact on the flow of the lake, but there are other factors to consider." Five years ago, he said, "no one was considering a world where part of that causeway might not be there."

HEALTH CARE

Continued from Page A1

staff was brought in and the campus was closed to visitors. Positive cases subsided and Geer was declared by the state Department of Health (DPH) in late November to once again be COVID-free.

The North Canaan nursing home has been offering virtual and window visits on a scheduled basis through its recreation department, and administration reported that if all tests remain negative, they anticipate being able to resume in-person visits this week.

Geer's CEO Kevin O'Connell has said that the pandemic has delivered a devastating financial blow to the nursing home. In order to return to an all-clear status, testing 300 employees and about 160 residents weekly was necessary, but expensive.

Geer, like other nursing home facilities, is "limited by your ability to fund these initiatives. We closed the restaurant, no one is being admitted

to assisted living, and the cost of testing is thousands of dollars each week," said O'Connell. "If [the pandemic] goes on and on for months into 2021, it is going to be even more of a strain."

Vaccination has begun

Deliveries of the COVID-19 vaccine to hospitals and nursing homes in the region took place in the final weeks of 2020, and were hailed as "hope in a syringe."

Medical staff at Sharon Hospital and Charlotte Hungerford Hospital got their first round of vaccinations in late December. Inoculation rollouts started on Dec. 23 at Noble Horizons, and staff and residents at both Sharon Health Care Center and Geer Village were due to roll up their sleeves the first week of 2021.

The vaccine news came as a long-awaited sign of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. "It has the potential to be a game-changer," said O'Connell.

ELECTIONS

Continued from Page A1

his reelection bid for the state Senate, as did state Rep. Maria Horn (D-64).

Voters here overwhelmingly supported the Democratic presidential and vice presidential nominees, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. In Cornwall, the Democrats prevailed 760-250; in Falls Village it was Biden, 437-209. Kent went for Biden, 1,249-568. The same was true in Salisbury (Biden 2,023-502) and Sharon (1,019-510).

The margin was much closer in North Canaan, where Biden beat Trump 842 to 786.

Region One School District voters preferred Hayes to Sullivan by similar margins. Hayes appeared on two lines on the

ballot, the Democratic and Working Families lines.

Hayes won easily everywhere in Region One except North Canaan, where the challenger prevailed by a 716-491 margin.

Miner (R-30) won his reelection bid against Democratic challenger David Gronbach, but Miner did not fare well in most Region One towns, losing in every town except North Canaan.

Horn (D-64) won reelection in a rematch from 2018 with Republican Brian Ohler. Ohler carried two Region One towns: North Canaan and Falls Village. Horn dominated in the other four towns.

He said an additional lake evaluation, to be commissioned by the landowner, would likely not take place until the second half of 2021. "It may well be, at the end of the day, that there are more important things that can be done than to remove a section of the causeway. But we have more science to get and evaluate."

"While many people were listening, judging by the tenor of the remarks made by his client and those who spoke, few internalized the complexity of the process Mr. Abbott was outlining," Klemens said, adding that his main concern "is that something is being contemplated where there is little scientific foundation."

Lakes are twins — but not identical

Contrary to Keenan's stated belief that the causeway is causing harm to West Twin Lake, Klemens noted that, "The lake is not dying — but it is experiencing at its outlet north of the causeway quite a bit of siltation."

During the Zoom presentation in December, several Lake Association members commented that the level of silt has risen by several inches in West Twin.

"West Twin is a different lake than East Twin," Klemens noted. "It is a shallow, warm-water lake. West Twin doesn't have that kind of water turnover, it never did."

He pointed to key differences in the limnology of the two lakes. East Twin (which is about 569 acres and is also known as Lake Washing) has a maximum depth of more than 80 feet and is deep enough to allow seasonal water turnover. By comparison, West Twin (which is about 290 acres) is at most, 24 feet deep — a quarter of the depth of East Twin.

During the December Zoom presentation, property owners on West Twin said they want the water level to be higher in their lake; but property owners on East Twin have indicated that they want a lower water level on their lake.

"Removing the causeway will not markedly remedy the conditions at the outflow of the lake," Klemens said. "The flow problem is a result of the dam," which is located at the end of the lake's upper arm, on Taconic Road, he said.

"Opening the dam, and drawing down the lake would achieve a much more rapid exit of water" — into both West Twin and East Twin.

Lake plan 'dismisses' claims

Klemens noted that the 2015 Twin Lakes Data Analysis and Management Plan "clearly dismisses" Keenan's belief that the causeway (which is specifically protected, in perpetuity, under the 1990 Conservation Restriction Agreement between former landowner Mary Alice White and The Nature Conservancy) is detrimental to the north portion of Lake Washinee.

"The current condition of the lake is more likely a result of over-development and clearing around the lake, coupled with the outlet being clogged and dammed," Klemens said. "Yes, there is some problem on both sides of the causeway with water lilies, which could be removed."

Klemens said research points to two solutions to lake residents' water-quality concerns: Dredging the upper portion of the lake would solve the siltation problem and increase water flow; and clearing the water lilies around the end of the 2,000-foot causeway would improve/widen the rowing lane. A rowing lane has been designated through the area, which passes between the end of the causeway and Keenan's property.

Klemens' analysis, supported by the lake management study, also cites lawns and septic systems as contributors

to the increasing deterioration of West Twin: A recently published aerial image taken one or two years ago shows that portions of the Washinee Heights peninsula have been deforested and replaced by lawn down to the lake's edge. An image taken from Google Earth shows a distinct plume of silt run-off from recent construction activities on Washinee Heights. Other, smaller plumes associated with residences that have lawns down to the lake's edge are also visible.

Burden of proof rests with Keenan

Klemens maintains that the causeway proposal, as it stands, lacks merit.

"It's a narrative that doesn't hold up to scientific scrutiny. If Mr. Keenan has data that refutes the 2015 lake management study, he should show us the data that supports his cause and why it disagrees with the study conducted by objective ecologists."

He further noted that Keenan's representatives have appeared before the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) in the past seeking unrelated land-use approvals. Klemens is the longtime chair of that commission.

"Regarding two written statements made by Jeffrey Keenan that I oppose everything he does. That's simply not true, and is borne out by the publicly available minutes of our meetings. When he appears before our commission, I merely ask that he adhere to the 10% impervious coverage requirements in the Lake Protection Overlay District in the same manner as all the other residents surrounding the Twin Lakes do.

"I also recently requested that he adhere to the zoning regulations, as do all the residents of Salisbury, as they pertain to pre-existing non-conforming structures such as the gazebo [on the causeway]."

"The Planning and Zoning Commission applies the regulations consistently to every applicant," he said.

Outflow solutions don't involve causeway

Klemens said his opposition to Keenan's plan is as a private citizen well-versed in ecology and conservation, not as a member of P&Z. He said he felt compelled to dispel the single-cause myth surrounding Lake Washinee's sluggish water flow.

"People are viewing this as the only solution, if in fact it's a solution at all," he said. "I don't think [shortening the causeway] will achieve the results hoped for," Klemens said.

He also pointed to the years of studies and approvals that will be needed to remove the causeway. "Permitting for dredging and debris removal at the outflow," he noted, "is a comparatively quick approval process, especially as the outflow's problems at or near the dam are repeatedly cited in the 2015 report funded by the DEEP. Wouldn't it make sense to try that first?"

A hearing on work that Jeffrey Keenan has done on the causeway without permits from the Inland Wetlands Conservation Commission was held Monday night, Jan. 4. Coverage of that meeting will be in the Jan. 14 issue of The Lakeville Journal.



ENROLLMENT

Continued from Page A1

received many queries about enrolling their children. But when the total number of students was officially tallied, the increases were not significant — and the enrollment decreased at the shared regional high school, Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

The official date for the student tally is Oct. 1. The number of students on that date is used for preparing the next year's education spending plan. Six towns are in the Region One School District: Canaan/Falls Village, Cornwall,

Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon. Each town has its own elementary school; they all share the regional high school.

The only schools that showed a significant increase this autumn were Cornwall Consolidated School, which had 93 students on Oct. 1 compared with 78 last year; and Salisbury Central School, which had 305 students compared to 276 last autumn.

At the high school, the student body decreased to 305 this year from 342 last year.

Region One Enrollment Figures

	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18
Cornwall Consolidated School	93	78	73	83
Lee H. Kellogg School (Falls Village)	69	70	73	66
Kent Center School	191	192	223	213
North Canaan Elementary School	247	248	277	253
Salisbury Central School	305	276	298	287
Sharon Center School	109	103	133	115
Out-of-district tuition Pre-K to grade eight	38	35	*	*
Housatonic Valley Regional High School	305	342	364	368
Out-of-district tuition Housatonic Valley Regional High School	15	48	*	*
Home schooled students	59	30	*	*

* Data unavailable

RIVER SAFETY

Continued from Page A1

made it difficult for emergency vehicles to get through.

Despite the First Light recreation areas being officially closed, visitors simply moved sawhorses and took down hazard tape.

Visitors ignored signs stating the area was closed and clambered around the falls, jumping off into the water.

Popular angling access areas in the Trout Management Area (from the junction of Routes 7 and 112 in Salisbury and Falls Village downstream to the junction of Routes 4 and 7 in Cornwall and Sharon) were crowded, not with anglers (for the most part) but with picnickers and swimmers. There were 19 cars wedged into the Cellar Hole on Saturday, July 18, and the next morning there were six large plastic bags of garbage, neatly packaged, waiting for someone to pick them up.

That someone was probably from the Housatonic Valley Association, which had groups of interns out on the river do-

ing outreach and handing out trash bags. Citizen groups also helped with trash cleanup.

Over the summer, volunteer fire and rescue squads responded to at least two emergencies at the falls, on July 5 and July 22.

Officials at the town and state level expressed frustration at the situation. Salisbury First Selectman Curtis Rand said on Monday, July 20, "You can't take the river and the Appalachian Trail away. They belong to the people."

At the same time, "First Light owns the access" and is obligated to make recreation opportunities available to the public.

"It's hot," Rand said. "And everything's closed everywhere else."

And on Sunday, July 19, state Sen. Craig Miner (R-30) noted the widespread closing of parks and beaches elsewhere in the state. "When we give the public no alternatives, we shouldn't be surprised when they find something else."



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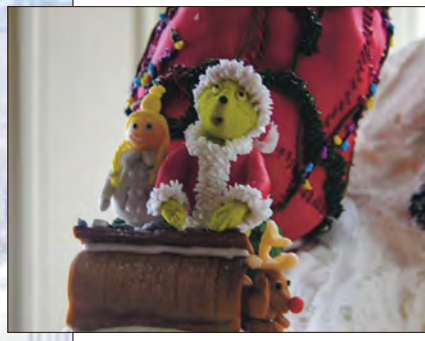
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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Events

January 7-13, 2021



PHOTOS BY
MELISSA ROTH CHERNISKE
Brittany Hrabcsak's cookie recreation of Whoville from "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" won first prize in the Kent, Conn., Gingerbread Festival.

GINGERBREAD: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Gingerbread 'House Proud' in Kent and Salisbury, Conn.

In just nine years, the Kent Gingerbread Festival in Kent, Conn., has gone from being just fun to being quite a big deal. It's one of the biggest gingerbread festivals in the region and has become a big draw to town, even in years when there's a pandemic quarantine. This year, to make it easier to access the houses, the festival organizers used space in a retail area in the center of town owned by Rocco and Candi Valeri, that was converted for the holiday season to Gingerbread Station.

The cookie creations were on display for the month of December. Awards were announced Jan. 1; the judging this year was by state Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) and Jill Owens Zinzi, of Kent Coffee and Chocolate Co., described as "the mother of the Kent Gingerbread Festival herself."

The grand prize winner this year was Brittany Hrabcsak, who has been an award winner in the festival for several years in a row now (for her first foray into gingerbread decoration she was young enough to qualify for the Youth Award). This year, Hrabcsak created Whoville from Dr. Seuss' holiday tale, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

Sue Hanneman won second place for her recreation of Rapunzel in her castle tower.

Third place was awarded to the Swyft restaurant



Isabel Carrington and Emily Creighton not only know how to bake and decorate like pros, they also collected tens of thousands of views on social media for their cookie version of the Warner Theatre in Torrington, Conn.

team.

The people's choice award went to Denise Howard, Teddie Miner, Cat Heidel, Karen Heuvel, and Janette Ireland.

"Social Media's most loved creation" went to Isabel Carrington and Emily Creighton, whose post of their gingerbread Warner Theatre reached 19,200 followers and elicited 3,100 comments.

The Youth Award was won this year by Jordana Berman, Abby Berman and Alexander Berman, who recreated the Kent train station (now home to the Kent Station Pharmacy).

The prize for Most Realistic creation went to Tom Doyle, for building a fully edible cookie version of the exterior AND interior of Foreign Cargo.

Just starting out this year, the Salisbury, Conn., gingerbread festival and holiday decorating competition announced two winners at the end of December. Heidi Hoeller and Wanda Hoeller won the gingerbread contest with their Gingerville Ski Chalet; and the Hussey Family of Lakeville won first place in the Light Up Salisbury contest. Both contests were sponsored by the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance and Salisbury Recreation.



Rapunzel and her tower were captured in cookies by Sue Hanneman, whose baking and decorating efforts won her second place in the Kent, Conn., Gingerbread Festival.

TORT LAW:
CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

In Case You're Worried About the Presidential Election

Perhaps you've been wondering what goes on inside the grand white building in Winsted, Conn., that's called the American Museum of Tort Law. If you have questions or concerns about the presidential election and about pardons that Pres. Donald Trump has been giving, this is a good time to visit the website of the museum, which was founded by Winsted native Ralph Nader and which is run by Richard Newman.

Chances are that you have not and maybe never will visit the museum and tour the exhibits on the history of famous trial law cases (including of course the 1970 legal battle between Nader and General Motors over the Corvair, which Nader deemed "unsafe at any speed").

The museum's physical plant might not change much, but its online offerings are constantly updated and always interesting. Newman has done short interviews with dozens of attorneys on topics of interest, from Gerald Posner talking about his new book on Big Pharma; to Morris Dees, co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center talking about a 1981 lynching in Mobile, Ala.; to Mike Chase talking about his book, "How To Become a Federal Criminal," a list of absurd federal crimes that are still on the law books.

Newman has also interviewed Salisbury

resident and retired attorney Tom Morrison about his new book, which makes fun of lawyers who take themselves too seriously, called "Torts 'R' Us."

The newest conversation on YouTube and the museum website is with constitutional law expert Bruce Fein, who has worked in government and has worked for the Heritage Foundation and the American Enterprise Foundation. He's appeared on CNN as well as Fox, on NPR and MSNBC. He is an equal opportunity critic of government officials and presidents in both parties. In the first of what will eventually be two videos on the last days of the Trump Administration, Newman interviews Fein about questions of the legitimacy of the November election. In short, Fein says, "Joe Biden is probably the most legitimate president in history" because the election has been so heavily scrutinized.

He then launches into an attack on what appears to be a failure of law schools (Fein himself earned his JD at Harvard) to teach ethics.

He and Newman will post another conversation in the next few weeks about Trump's presidential pardons.

To find the full list of video conversations hosted by the American Museum of Tort Law, go to YouTube, search for the museum by name and click on "videos."

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LEARNING TO LOVE CLASSICAL MUSIC

The David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village, Conn., will host the two-part Zoom event, "Learning to Enjoy Classical Music with Warren Whitaker," on two Saturdays, Jan. 23 and 30, at 4 p.m. on both days. Register online at www.HuntLibrary.org, on the library's Facebook page or by calling the library at 860-824-7424. This program is free and suitable for all ages.

Many people are intrigued by classical music but also intimidated by it and do not know where to begin. Warren Whitaker, a lawyer and long-time amateur music enthusiast, will discuss how to approach classical music for enjoyment in the first session on Jan. 23.

He will then discuss the major composers and their most accessible works as a guide to the beginner in the second session on Jan. 30. Whitaker is on the board of Music Mountain, the nationally renowned chamber music concert hall located in Falls Village.

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Look for a new calendar of events at our website, www.tricornernews.com/events-calendar. We will also include the calendar in our print edition as space allows.

ART: LEILA HAWKEN

Sharon's Alethea Platt, an Artist and a Fierce Advocate for Women

The dozens of viewers who attended the December talk on the life and art of Sharon, Conn., summer artist-resident Alethea Hill Platt came away with a more informed appreciation of this late 19th- and early 20th-century woman, who earned every inch of her success as an artist while exercising her fierce independence as a woman of her times.

Sponsored by the Sharon Historical Society and held on Friday, Dec. 11, the vividly detailed talk was titled, "A Kind of Nobility: The Forgotten Artist Alethea Hill Platt." Presenting the Zoom lecture was scholar and researcher Eve Kahn, who said she undertook her research when the COVID-19 pandemic began in March.

The more Kahn uncovered about the substantial body of work accomplished by her extraordinary subject (who was a friend of Florence Griswold and many leading Connecticut families of the time), the more her subject intrigued her.

The sixth of nine children, Platt was born into a family descended from Revolutionary War officers, Kahn said. Platt lived her early years in Manhattan, across Fifth Avenue from the First Presbyterian Church. A fiercely bitter court battle over family inheritance issues brought the loss of the Fifth Avenue address and brought her to live with a relative in Sharon in 1898.

Her Sharon home and studio space along Cornwall Bridge Road came to be named Ellespie Studio. She also maintained

studio space on Eighth Avenue in New York, where she taught and resided. The Van Dyke Studios building was a haven for Bohemians, according to Kahn. The building still stands.

Kahn presumed that an estate settlement must have been reached, providing the means to support an independent life of travel.

Platt was comfortable working in the developing American Impressionist style. To the practiced eye, her work seemed effortless, mostly oil applied thickly on canvas and some watercolors. She traveled and painted frequently in Europe, but in 1914 American artists could no longer travel abroad. So, Platt went to Maine and throughout New England to find inspiration and forest, land and water scenes, Kahn said.

Critics were not always

impressed. One wrote that all four corners of Platt's painting would make a pleasant picture, while another complained of "too much zest in the details."

Nevertheless, Platt presented more than 200 ex-

hibitions during her fairly noteworthy career, lending her energies in support of organizations that in turn promoted women artists.

Platt's final painting in 1931 was of a relative, Stuart Platt. She died in

1932 and is buried in White Plains, N.Y. Some of Alethea's relatives are buried at Hillside Cemetery in Sharon.

Platt invited anyone with information to share about Platt or questions to contact her at www.evekahn.com.



Left, Alethea Hill Platt, who lived the later part of her life in Sharon, was an artist who also supported the work of other women artists. This portrait of her was taken by her friend and New York City neighbor, the artist Mary H. Tannahill, in the early 1900s. Below, Untitled view of Boothbay Harbor, c. 1920s.



PHOTOS COURTESY PLATT FAMILY

BOOKS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

How To Protect Yourself And Your Family from a Changing Planet

The beginning of the new year is a time of optimism, when we hope that the coming 12 months will be better than the past 12 months.

If such high spirits seem unwarranted to you, then a new book by David Pogue called, "How To Prepare for Climate Change: A Practical Guide to Surviving the Chaos," will perfectly suit your mindset.

Pogue will share his warnings about the incredibly bad shape our planet is in during a talk hosted by the Salisbury Forum on Friday, Feb. 5, at 7:30 p.m.

The words alone in Pogue's new book might seem daunting, even depressing. But Pogue himself is upbeat, fun and polished, a veteran of quick, snappy how-to's on network news shows and TED Talks. He's been a New York Times reporter, a best-selling New York Times author, an Emmy Award-winning host and writer and author of several books in the "For

Dummies" series.

And if that doesn't automatically up his fun quotient in your eyes, the 1985 graduate of Yale spent 10 years conducting and arranging Broadway musicals.

That might remind you of the story of the band continuing to play as the Titanic sank. Our planet, according to Pogue, an award-winning journalist/researcher, is sinking like that great ship. Even when he shares a droplet of (relatively) good news — that the decrease in our use of planes and cars during COVID-19 did wonderful things for air and water quality worldwide — he adds the flip side, which is that as soon as global lockdown ended, humans went right back to flying and driving and wasting electricity on lightly occupied shopping malls and office buildings, and any small environmental gains were quickly eradicated.

Pogue's intention in tell-

ing us all this isn't to send us back to bed, to lie beneath the covers and await the inevitable suffocation of Earth. He wants to scare you into action.

With his how-to background, he wants to teach his readers how they, as individuals, can prepare themselves for the future through mitigation and adaptation — and how they can be ready for and perhaps even minimize the inevitable suffering that lies in

"The time for bickering about who or what is at fault is long gone," Pogue says in the introduction to his book, which he says is "about where to live, how to invest, what to eat, how to build, what insurance you need, how to talk to your kids."

To learn what you can do to protect yourself from climate change, tune in to the Salisbury Forum Zoom presentation by David Pogue on Friday, Feb. 5, at 7:30 p.m. as he talks about his new book,

"How To Prepare for Climate Change: A Practical Guide to Surviving the Chaos."

For the link, go to www.salisburyforum.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Despite concerns about COVID-19, some cultural venues are opening again and some events are being scheduled — but some events are then being canceled as infections rise again. It's a good idea to check websites before you go to an event.



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MUSEUMS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

History, Art, Architecture and Paris in an Online Tour

It's not like most of us have the opportunity to visit all the great museums even without COVID-19. But it is possible these days to get a "next best thing" tour of world culture thanks to the internet.

Let me be clear at this point that I'm not a great art connoisseur and have not been to most of the world's great museums (yet). But I would like to learn more, and as the new year begins I feel a bit of an urge to learn and see new things; while the online museum experience has a lot of flaws, it also is better than sitting around the house watching cat videos on YouTube.

Let's begin by saying frankly that most museum virtual tours are disappointing, for many reasons. Generally the art works are all presented as being the same size, so that a wall-size painting such as Georges Seurat's "A Sunday on La Grande Jatte" (at the



PHOTO © 2015, RMN-GP-GRAND PALAIS2012

The nave of the Grand Palais after restoration, 2012.

Art Institute of Chicago, www.artic.edu) looks the same size online as "Maternal Caress" by Mary Cassatt, which is about 10.5 by 4.5 inches.

Many museums offer virtual "walking tours" and Google street view visits to museum galleries, but they're usually poorly lit, distorted and nausea-inducing if the camera pans around too quickly.

You are also unable to access many virtual tours unless you download Adobe Flash, which I have had some bad experiences with and won't allow on my computer.

Google tries very hard to put its fingerprint on most of the world's museums and cultural heritage sites through its Google Arts and Culture website. There you can find links to many mu-

seums and lots of activities, most of which are geared to young people. There are games and puzzles, and there are short videos of indie pop culture icons such as Grimes and Fiest talking about famous works of art, modern and ancient.

Most of it I found uninteresting or overwhelming but there are some glimmers of excellence. The one I liked best and that I'll

recommend to you here is a tour of the Grand Palais in Paris. If you go to the actual museum website, you just get the usual short teasers about their current shows.

But if you go to the Google Arts and Culture page on the Grand Palais, you get interesting history and photos of the creation of the building — which combines sculpture and classical architecture and a glass dome and an outdoor colonnade — for the Universal Exposition of 1900.

The photos and the history (in English) are clear and easy to absorb. For World War history buffs, there is an entire text and photo section on the conversion of the space (which is huge, on the scale of Grand Central Station) into a hospital for wounded soldiers.

There are four "views" of the exterior of the building, including a view of Paris from the roof. Unlike the dizzying videos in which a camera pans around a site,

here you click on arrows that bring your progressively closer to whatever details you'd like to focus on.

And of course there are photos and short explanations of the photos and paintings in the museum's collection.

No doubt there are many other excellent tours of art and architecture on the internet.

But in a three-hour search of the internet this morning, the website for the Grand Palais was the one I felt most like recommending. It was a nice mix of architecture and art; and it was a virtual journey to Paris, which is a city I'd like to visit if I had the time and money and there wasn't a worldwide pandemic.

To visit the Google Arts and Culture tour of RMN-Grand Palais online, go to <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/rmn-grand-palais>.

In case you're wondering, RMN stands for Réunion des musées nationaux.

FOOD: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Tart, Citrus and Sunny, Marmalade Is a Reason To Get Out of Bed in Winter

There's an apocryphal story about marmalade that says the sugary citrus jam got its name from Mary, Queen of Scots (the famous Mary from the 1500s, who was a cousin to Queen Elizabeth). Supposedly, the future queen was ill and her grandmother's cook, who had a large supply of citrus fruit on hand, was trying to find something to tempt her to eat.

"Marie est malade," he kept muttering in French (Mary is ill) as he tried out confections, ending up with the one that became known as "marmalade."

The name actually comes from the Portuguese word for quince, which was originally the fruit used to make marmalade.

Over the centuries, what we have come to know as marmalade is usually made from citrus fruit, particularly oranges.

There is no realistic way to make it seem like marmalade is healthy, other than that it's made from the peels and juice of citrus fruit (which are healthy, especially now, in the middle of winter). But like all fruit preserves, marmalade is made with a lot of sugar.

So, healthwise it's hard to recommend marmalade. But in the COVID-19 quarantine world, if we all began baking bread last spring, then why not continue to entertain ourselves in quarantine by learning to make fruit preserves, which go so nicely with bread? And since it's winter, the fruit in greatest abundance is citrus.

WORTH THE EFFORT

Making marmalade is a lot of work, perhaps more than the average fruit preserve; but the color and flavor can definitely brighten up a gray winter morning and give you a reason to get out of bed.

For Christmas, my friend in Seattle gave me a copy

of a book by a local chef (Yossy Arefi) called "Sweetener off the Vine." It's divided by seasons and many of the winter recipes involve citrus; and for some reason the marmalade recipe really reached out to me.

I made a batch. I wouldn't do it every week, but it's delicious and I recommend it if you have several hours to devote to lavishing attention on a few pounds of citrus.

The recipe calls for blood oranges and Meyer lemons, which I found at a Trader Joe store last week. You can use any citrus, even clementines or grapefruit. The blood oranges of course add spectacular color; and the Meyer lemons (which you can often find at Stop & Shop in North Canaan at a reasonable price) have a much softer, thinner skin that's easier to work with. Whichever fruit you use, the thinner the skin and the plumper the fruit, the easier and more delicious your marmalade will be.

NOT SUGAR-FREE

This recipe calls for 2 pounds or about nine blood oranges; 1 pound or about four Meyer lemons; one regular lemon; and 5 cups of sugar (yes, it's a lot).

You'll note that you don't need to use pectin in this recipe, but you will want to get citrus fruit that has seeds in it (the pectin is in the seeds).

This will make lot of jam, so you'll want to use canning jars with fresh sealing lids to preserve it. I use the 4-pint Ball jar known as the 125. I filled about six of them, and had about 2 cups of jam left to put in a regular jar that I did not "preserve."

Before you get going on the fruit, either clean the jars in your dishwasher so they're hot and sterile or boil them for 10 minutes.

You'll need a very large, clean pot for boiling the jars after they've been



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

filled; a clean funnel; some paper towels; and if possible a pair of canning tongs to lift the jars.

THE TEDIIOUS PREPARATION OF THE FRUIT

Scrub your fruit and then use a juicer to get all the juice and most of the membrane out of the fruit.

Toss out the membrane but keep all the seeds.

Save the juice, of course. After juicing, you should have a couple dozen half rounds of citrus. I cut each half round into three pieces and then used a sharp knife to carefully slice away the bitter white pith on the inside of the peel.

It's tedious but necessary; do it while you listen to a podcast or watch a movie. The less bitter, spongy pith on your peel, the better your marmalade will taste.

The next step is equally tedious: You need to take your scraped peels and slice them as thin as possible, as thin as blades of grass or hay. Don't worry about the length; long strands are actually kind of pretty.

BOIL THE RINDS

If you have an InstantPot, now is the time to get it out: You need to boil the peel strips in 2 quarts of

water (8 cups) until they're tender and almost translucent — which can take up to an hour if you do it on your stovetop.

If you have an InstantPot, combine the water and peels and cook them on high pressure for 10 minutes, then quick release the pressure. If you don't, use a large nonreactive pot and boil them lightly until they're ready. You'll need about 3/4 cup of the cooking liquid, so keep an eye on the pot and make sure you don't boil away all the liquid. That's one advantage of the InstantPot: Your liquid won't boil away.

When they're tender and almost translucent, rinse the peels in cool water to stop them from cooking any more.

At this point your jars should be clean and hot and ready to take out of the dishwasher; put them on a cookie sheet and put them in a 200 degree oven, so they're warm when the jam is ready: If you put hot jam in a cool jar, the glass will crack.

The next two steps have to be done on the stovetop. First, take your giant pot and fill it with enough that your jars will be submerged. Start it boiling so it's ready for canning

as soon as the marmalade is done cooking. Once it's boiling, reduce it to a simmer.

In a large pot that has a ceramic or other non-reactive surface, combine the citrus peels, the citrus juice (from way back in step one), the sugar, the citrus seeds (tie them up tightly in cheesecloth) and 3/4 cup of the cooking liquid.

Bring it all to a rolling boil (very big bubbles but foaming) and keep cooking for about 30 minutes. At this moment, it's great to have a cooking thermometer, to check when it reaches 220 degrees.

If you don't have a thermometer, put some spoons in your freezer and then test a spoonful of marmalade at a time by putting it in the freezer for a few minutes to see if it gels up. I don't personally find this method works very well but ...

IN WHICH WE SAY 'CAREFULLY' AGAIN AND AGAIN

Once your marmalade is done, turn off the stove and take your tray of canning jars out of the oven.

Carefully spoon the jam into the jars, leaving a quarter inch of air at the top. Wipe the top and

sides of the jars carefully with a wet paper towel; if there's jam overflow, your jars won't seal.

Carefully place your jars in the simmering water in your big pot. You don't want them to tip because you don't want any jam to spill on your jar, which could keep the jar from sealing.

In a perfect world, you should have a trivet at the bottom of your big canning pot so your jars don't touch the pot surface, which can cause them to break. This sounds much fussier and harder than it actually is; I didn't use a trivet and I did tip my jars over as I was putting them in the pot, and it was fine — but it's possible that I just got lucky.

Return the heat to high so your water is boiling vigorously again, then boil your filled jars for 10 minutes.

Remove them carefully and set them down in a spot that's relatively not sunny and relatively cool, which at this time of year is pretty much anyplace in my kitchen. Don't move the jars for 12 hours, so you don't "break" the set of the marmalade or the seal on the jars.

If at the end of that time the lids aren't sealed, clean the lids and jars again and boil them again for another 10 minutes. If your marmalade didn't set, I suppose you could pour it all back in a clean pot and boil it down some more.

I always feel like preserving jars of food is very intimidating and time consuming, but it really is very easy. You just boil your jars for 10 minutes. Done. But it does help if you prepare your jars correctly and have the right tools. If you want to learn more about canning, go to the National Center for Home Food Preservation website at <https://nchfp.uga.edu>.

EDITORIAL

Hail and farewell, 2020

The year 2020, while historic and unique (let's hope that unique quality holds true), is not one many of us want to remember clearly in every aspect. There were lots of surprises and painful losses, and we humans are not usually great at processing those things quickly and well.

Yet, the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic and its remediation in the United States and across the globe, as well as the racial inequality seared into the public consciousness with the recorded killing of George Floyd, the economic downturn related to the coronavirus' effect on society and more, should be embraced and fully internalized before we can all move forward in a real way into 2021. Those lessons should not be lost.

What did we learn when we needed to face down a deadly and highly contagious disease that had never before been seen? That while there are many people who wish to deny its power over them, and would rather live their lives as they had been and make no adjustments to address the spread of the coronavirus, there are also many who take scientists' warnings and well-informed and researched advice seriously and change their behavior as possible to keep themselves and those around them as safe as they can.

We also learned there are many courageous people all around us: medical workers who step into intense and difficult situations to try to save the lives of or simply bring back to health those who contract COVID-19; scientists and researchers who worked around the clock to discover vaccines that can help normalize society again; grocery store and other food workers who have found ways to keep their communities fed; delivery people, law enforcement, firefighters and EMTs who work with the public to try to keep systems going and people safe.

The challenge of living through the deadly pandemic of the past year has been tough on all of us. Recognize that, and when looking for something about which to feel gratitude, look first to yourself and the sacrifices you and your families have made to keep your lives and your selves as stable as possible. Thank yourself, and then thank all those around you who have made the past year navigable despite its strangeness and inherent danger.

But with the slowness of the rollout of vaccines to the general population, don't expect things to change dramatically too quickly. That is, don't let your guard down. We all need to continue to be vigilant and exert the greatest care when interacting with others.

Yet even with the use of extreme caution, all of us remain at risk to the highly contagious infection. Contracting it is not a sign we have failed, but rather that we are human. Be understanding of others who contract it, and of yourself if you do. Then take all measures possible to mitigate the illness and recover. Some of us do, but many do not. All those affected by COVID-19 in the past year, including those who have lost loved ones, have our thoughts and wishes for healing, however it can be accomplished. The sorrow of such loss cannot be touched by any words here, so just know our thoughts are with you all.

And thank you to all our essential workers, who have continued to work despite the risk to themselves. Without their bravery and abilities, our fragile society would arguably have fallen apart months ago.

Here's to a better and healthier new year for all.

Sharing joy with friends

First, my gratitude to The Lakeville Journal for allowing me, after many years, to reconnect with you and secondly, to share some joy. One of the hallmarks of The Lakeville Journal is its ability, over many decades, to bring together the Northwest Corner community by sharing news from all of the regional towns. I say reconnect because approximately 44 years ago (Yikes! Time flies!) I moved out of Lakeville. However, being born at Sharon Hospital and raised with my five siblings by our parents, Frank and Sadie McArthur, Lakeville will always be the place I call home.

In addition to my biological family, extended family helped to shape my life. I grew up (graduated from Salisbury Elementary School, 1965; HVRHS, 1969) when Lakeville was a bustling little New England town where you met your friends, classmates, neighbors, teachers, clergy and town officials at familiar places: the Lakeville Post Office, Barry's Jewelry Store, Gentile's Apothecary Shop, Danny's Shoe Store, the Grove, Ben Franklin 5-10, Church, the baseball field, to name a few. Attending HVRHS afforded you the opportunity to enlarge your family by including folk from what seemed at the time, the far reaches of Canaan, Sharon, the Cornwalls, Falls Village, and Kent. I share this because in truth we are not self-made. We are the products of many relationships, from and nurtured by an imperfect community of love, wisdom, and encouragement. We also grew up in one of God's most

life inspiring slices of heaven; a bucolic masterpiece. I would not have had it any other way than to grow up in and be launched from such a place.

Which brings us to the joy part. After serving as a United Methodist Minister for 35 years, three years as missionary in Japan and a psychotherapist for 20 years, I retired in July 2018. I learned quickly that retirement doesn't mean you stop work or that God puts you out in the pasture to graze in your golden years. Since retirement I returned to Tokyo, Japan to serve as the Interim Pastor of Tokyo Union Church. Most recently I was asked by the Special TIME Edition Magazine (STEM), now owned by Meredith Corporation, to write an article for their current STEM publication, "The Power of Joy." While I am not in the same league, my article, "Having Faith in Joy," is among articles written by the world renowned His Holiness The Dalai Lama and Bishop Desmond Tutu. We are living in a very difficult time — our nation is deeply divided, racism is on the rise, and even though help is on the way with a vaccine, the number of COVID-19 cases is increasing daily.

Could it be that God's joy is the vaccination all of us need right now? I think so. STEM is a national publication. It can be found at checkout counters in supermarkets, pharmacies, paper/magazine stores, ordered from amazon.com and will be on display until Feb. 21.

Douglas A. McArthur
Mt. Bethel, Pa.



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Laden with snow in Canaan

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Staff at Sharon Hospital helped so much with COVID recovery

This is my commentary on what a wonderful, supportive community we have here in Sharon.

Early in Christmas week I was forced to enter Sharon Hospital with a bad case of COVID-19, in which I stayed for six days. I must say that I got the most excellent care I could have received. The entire staff — doctors, nurses, attendants, physical therapists, cleaners and kitchen staff — showed superior care and attentiveness. I appreciate everyone's kind and quality attention.

Also thanks goes out to our friends, relatives,

acquaintances, the Sharon Methodist Church community, Sharon Pharmacy and Dr. Harvey Hayden who intervened on Christmas Eve day with a cat emergency while my wife, Andrea, was home dealing with her own case of COVID. Our needs have been fully met by all of the above. It is at times like this that we recognize the importance of community in our lives.

John Bisbing

Sharon

Just when it all ought to be over

The Twilight Zone ride at Disney World is a tense upward grid, the side of the building collapses tens of stories above the park, no salvation — breathstealing — then the car freefalls: it's the terrorized feel of the 2020 Election. Just when it ought to be over — all constitutional Ts are crossed, votes counted, certifications certified — another leak showcases a secret call placed by the U.S. president not to Ukraine but to Georgia (the state, not the former Soviet satellite). Another executive extortion.

This New Year enters with Time Square empty, the Russians in our cyber-underwear and members of the U.S. Congress openly renouncing their oaths of office. A dirty dozen has conjured up a full disregard of democratic precepts as doc-

umented in the Constitution to support a loser staging a coup?

In November, Gillian Brockell of The Washington Post quoted from the concerned writings of "An Old Whig" Founder regarding presidential refusal to leave office. The Old Whig envisions the "man is without the virtue, the moderation and love of liberty which possessed the mind of our late general [Washington] — and this country will be involved at once in war and tyranny.

... We may also suppose, without trespassing upon the bounds of probability, that this man may not have the means of supporting, in private life, the dignity of his former station; that like Caesar, he may be at once ambitious and poor, and deeply involved in debt. Such a man would die a thou-

sand deaths rather than sink from the heights of splendor and power, into obscurity and wretchedness."

- *Antifederalist No 70.*

A dirty dozen senators Cruzing once again in a self-serving escapade: three are up for re-election in 2022, at least two are wanna-be presidential candidates in 2024, four are newly elected, not yet under oath. We find ourselves a dozen short in the U.S. Senate and perhaps 100 short in the House of persons, of leaders having "virtue, the moderation and love of liberty."

I have converted my Advent calendar from # of Days to Christmas to # of Days to Decency. January 20th is coming.

Kathy Herald-Marlowe
Sharon

The responsibilities of being stewards

A Letter to the Editor in the Dec. 24 edition of The Lakeville Journal, "What would Dr. Mary Alice White do?" took exception to statements I made — characterizing them as "emotional rhetoric." So, I ask, did the writer actually know Dr. White? As to her intent, I rely more on the statements of her children, or those in the community who knew her well, rather than an individual who self-identifies "as a relatively new homeowner on Lake Washinee." That statement implies that he never met Dr. White. If I assumed this in error, please correct me.

To understand why I consider that "easements are a sacred legally binding covenant" seems quite straightforward as a declarative statement of belief or ethos. The sanctity of Nature is an enduring tenet of human societies throughout history. John Swanson wrote in "Experiencing the Sacred in Nature" that the revelations of Moses, Jesus, Mohammed and Black Elk occurred during their vigils in wilderness. The sacred in Nature has inspired writers, musicians, artists, theologians, prophets and philosophers for

millennia. If I am mistaken to refer to Nature as sacred, then I am in very good company with Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Rachel Carson, Henri Rousseau, Manuel Mendive, Antonio Vivaldi, Wangari Maathai and St. Francis of Assisi, to name but a few.

The word "covenant" is a binding and far-reaching reciprocal promise, and in the case of conservation easements, codified in legal instruments. When I ceded development rights to multiple house lots spanning half of mile of Housatonic riverfront, as grantor I entered into a reciprocal commitment (covenant) with the recipient land trust, the grantee. The covenant we entered into was to secure in perpetuity those unique aspects of these lands, safeguarding Nature not only for the present but the future.

I agree with the writer of the letter that there is a need to recast this dialogue, moving beyond the paralysis of disagreements. Pope Francis writes extensively about synodality (from the Greek, *synodos*, "walking together"). The goal of the synod is not to forge agreements, but as much as to

recognize, honor, and respect our differences on a higher plane, where the best of each of our perspectives is retained.

The notion of individual sovereignty over Nature, referred to by Locke as "the commons," is a most appropriate concept to consider here as the Lake is not owned by any single entity, nor in fact owned at all. What we do own and share is a collective responsibility to be stewards of the Lake, whether we live around it, canoe through its marshes, or view it from afar.

Michael W. Klemens,
PhD

Lakeville

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — January 1921

There is very good sleighing at the present time and the youngsters are having great times trying out their new Christmas sleds and skis.

SALISBURY — Mrs. Stanley Sherwood had the misfortune recently to drive a crochet hook into her right hand and the services of Dr. Bissell were necessary to remove it.

LIME ROCK — John Lowe Jr. had his tonsils removed on Wednesday in the Pittsfield Hospital.

LAKEVILLE — The new Reo Chemical truck recently purchased for the Lakeville Hose Co. is expected to arrive here today from Utica. A description of the new apparatus will be given later.

The great amount of rainfall and lack of freezing has had the effect of making very bad road conditions. Even the newly constructed state road has suffered from weather conditions, Smith Hill being especially bad.

50 years ago — January 1971

A wedding in which the pledge was taken in German rather than English so pre-occupied the Rev. F. Newton Howden of Lime Rock that he failed to read the fine type on the back of the wedding license. Only after he had married Karl Heinz Glawischnig of Austria, and Miss Bertha E. Hechenbleikner of Cornwall, a teacher at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, did the rector of Trinity Church read the printing on the back of their license, which had been issued in Sharon. What he read, he reported later, was "Any minister who shall marry this couple in any other than the town of Sharon shall be fined not more than \$500 and sentenced to not more than a year in jail."

Startled, he looked for the bride and groom, but they had left for the reception in Torrington. "Fortunately," said the Rev. Mr. Howden, "we'd been invited to the reception."

Continued next page

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More letters next page.

The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. each Monday for that week's edition. You may email letters, no more than 500 words, to publisher@lakevillejournal.com.

Viewpoint

We can't abolish the Electoral College, so let's fix it

The best way to reform and repair the way presidents are elected is to either abolish the Electoral College or change it so that every vote will count.

Abolition's not going to happen as long as the system benefits either Democrats or Republicans but if this relic of a bygone era can't be eliminated, there is a fairer alternative that might appeal to both the popular vote and electoral college devotees.

Donald Trump and Joe Biden ran for president of Pennsylvania, Michigan, Georgia and a very few other states in 2020 because they were too close to call in the polls. They largely ignored the rest. This is no way for a democracy — or republic — to function.

So let's first dispose of the myth that because we are a republic and not a democracy, having every presidential vote count would somehow replace our republican form of government with something like mob rule.

The truth is we're both a democracy and a republic or maybe a democratic republic or republican democracy. Democracy is defined as "a system of government by the whole population or all members of a state, typically through elected representatives." A republic is "a state in which supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives and which has an elected or nominated president rather than a monarch."

A pure democracy hasn't existed anywhere since ancient Greece or maybe at the early New England town meetings where property owning men got together to make the town's rules for as long as there was enough room for them in the Congregational Church. After that, they formed town councils and other legislative bodies and had their elected representatives make the laws.

The Electoral College has its roots in the Constitution but the system worked so badly in the 1800 election that Alexander Hamilton, one of its architects, drafted an amendment to fix it, the first of about 700 attempts to reform or abolish the Electoral College, according to the National Archives.

The original Electoral College had one purpose — to appease the smaller, Southern slave-holding states that feared the larger Northern states would dominate the nation and ultimately threaten slavery, which was vital to their economy. They weren't satisfied with having as many senators representing their interests as the larger states but they were right about slavery being threatened.

The worst fears about the Electoral College were realized in 1876, the nation's centennial, when a Northern Democrat, Samuel Tilden, won the popular vote but the electoral votes were tied due to a dispute over the vote in four southern states. After a long debate, a Congressional committee voted to give the presidency to Republican Rutherford Hayes on two conditions. He would serve only one term and the post-Civil War federal oversight of the South — Reconstruction — would end.

The corrupt bargain delayed true freedom for the slaves for another century and remnants of the post-Reconstruction, Jim Crow era are alive and well today.

Segregation also played a role in the 1968 election at the height of the civil rights era. A third-party candidate, Alabaman George Wallace, had no illusions about becoming president but he figured he was popular enough in the South and a few other states to deny candidates Hubert Humphrey and Richard Nixon the 270 electoral votes needed to win.

If that happened, Wallace would be able to deliver the electoral vote majority to the party that would agree to end federal integration efforts in return for the presidency.

Wallace got only 14 percent of the popular vote and 46 electoral votes, but if he had received only 50,000 more votes in Tennessee and Humphrey got 90,000 more in Ohio, his plan would have worked.

That was enough to scare both parties and there was suddenly bipartisan support for an amendment to abolish the Electoral College.

With the support of President Nixon, the amendment easily passed in the House, 339 to 70. But it died in Senate, where a filibuster led by the Southern Democrat Strom Thurmond kept the amendment from going to the states where it was expected to be ratified.

IF YOU ASK ME DICK AHLES

Since then, two Republican presidents have been elected in this century by the Electoral College despite losing the popular vote, thereby making support for the electoral vote as popular among Republicans as it would be among Democrats if their candidates had won.

So, how about a more modest reform, like abolishing the winner takes all rule and awarding electoral votes proportionally, something like the enlightened states of Maine and Nebraska already do.

If that reform had existed in November, 37% of California's 55 electoral votes would have gone to loser Trump and 61% to winner Biden. In Texas, winner Trump would have received 52% of the state's electoral votes and loser Biden would have had 46%.

In other words, every vote would have counted and candidates for president would have had to campaign all over the United States of America. Something to think about.

Simsbury resident Dick Ahles is a retired journalist. Email him at rahles1@outlook.com.



Memories of those who came before

Speaking of Dr. Jill Biden, and aren't we all, it is good to remind all that the word doctor has as its etymology "to teach." This is in response to the buffoonish Opinion piece in the Wall Street Journal chiding her for using the honorific, which should only be used by people who have delivered babies. Tell that to my wonderful ophthalmologist.

Years ago, as a sort of joke, my ex-wife, in response to a solicitation from one of my schools, told them I was now Dr. Lonnie Tyrone. Not to be fooled for long, my Jesuit University now refers to me as Mr.

(A character in a play of mine says he graduated from UCLA. When challenged, he proudly says Uptown Corner Lenox Avenue.)

Which brings me to my parents' education. Though both had post-doctoral degrees in the School of Hard Knocks, their formal education was less than stellar. In fact, neither graduated from high school. Evelyn left Carl Shurz on the North Side of Chicago after junior year to help with the family, the youngest of five, growing up on Ohio Street, in a tenement, now a half block from the vaunted Michigan Avenue Miracle Mile.

My grandfather, Alexander Lipsey, (pronounced LipChay) who was AOL from Franz Joseph's army, always warned my grandmother never to answer the door. It was bound to be soldiers from the emperor's army ready to drag him back to Budapest. A knock at the door was probably from the census bureau, which never got the numbers of the LipChay family. Alexander died from phthisis at age 46, working in a gravestone factory before masks and earplugs and OSHA. Evelyn was seven.

At 17 she worked in the Woolworth's five and dime, (does that term still exist?) she the youngest of five, at the candy counter. She was so industrious that her boss said There are no flies on Evelina. Or the candy, I presume. My mom always liked her candy. She was born in March 1918 just as the so-called Spanish Flu was beginning to rage.

My Dad came to Chicago in 1932, "packin' a rod", as he put it, fearful of Al Capone, and who would not have been, being from Tecumseh, Nebraska, to the Murder Capital of America.

He worked at the Wimpie's downtown, under the Loop, the granddaddy of all late-night diners. McDonald's, Wendy's, eat your bloody grease out. His accustomed drink was a Pine Float — a toothpick and water.

He met my Mom through some Nebraska folks and Harold Carter and Evelyn Lipsey dated from the North Side to the South Side where they went to the Black and Tan Jazz Clubs, where they saw — well, who did they see, they must have seen many greats, many graduates from UCLA.

My mom told me that they sat next to Black people. She said,

quote, We didn't think anything of it.

My uncles were not paragons of racial equity.

One said that the only reason we have ZIP codes is that the (here I will let your imagination supply the odious slang, not the N word, but just as damaging I am guessing) Black Folk can't read.

Mom said they went back home from the Black and Tans, standing for the bus, from Chicago's Great South Side, not affording a car, shivering, and deeply in love.

They were married for 42 years. Evelyn massaging Harold's back.

He had welded, losing his hearing in the din of the factory at Ell Kay (you can still see the mark on lots of toilets) and U.S. Bottlers, where he worked until he was 64, when the son of the deceased owner told him he was being let go just before he would get his pension.

Harold, who rose at 4 a.m. to go to Indiana, to weld on his first job.

Harold, who, in Tecumseh, was known as Rink, because his letter sweater he wore every day and wrinkled at his belly, so he was called Harold The Wrinkle Belly Sheik.

Rink, with a bit of larceny in his heart, went back to Tecumseh High, from which he had not graduated because he could not pass history, bribed a functionary, and bought a diploma. High School Grad Hooray.

Harold and I had few conversations. One, embarrassing about sex, driving, as we passed Joker Joe's, a sort of strip joint, in Niles, Illinois, home of Hillary Clinton (more on that later) because no one stripped, but when women went to the loo, and they all wore skirts, Mom included, and I think he encouraged her to go, there was a draft in the floor that blew them up, the skirts that is, haha, and Dad thought that was HI-Larious.

Another, in which he admitted to me that he always wanted to be a journalist.

And here I am. Thanks, Dad. He died in 1982, pulling his gold Cadillac across the road into where he succumbed in the parking lot of the Mount Prospect Pop Shoppe.

Schola longa; vita brevis.

Lonnie Carter is a writer who lives in Falls Village. Email him at lonniety@comcast.net.



PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

Snowy tracks



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Aquatic Ecosystem Research was retained by the Twin Lakes Association and the Town of Salisbury, with the help of a grant from the CTDEEP, to study the lakes and recommend future actions to ensure their long term health. The recommendations included not using broad scale herbicidal treatments to control the weeds, but rather a more measured approach without chemicals. Additionally, for lake shore owners to reduce the use of fertilizers and control stormwater runoff with rain gardens and a buffer zone of native plants at the water's edge. The report identified the north section of the West Lake and the channel as major concerns. For a copy of the report, please let me know and I would be happy to send.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Gratitude for community support on a grand level

Kent is a very special community of people who support one another in times of trial. The result of this support is evident everywhere we look. Assisting our neighbors is part of our fabric, and, in many ways that our residents will never realize, because these kindnesses are performed quietly, without fanfare or expectation.

The Kent Food Bank is one of the beneficiaries of these acts of kindness. Without the ongoing support and generosity of so many folks, many of whom are not Kent residents, and Kent businesses, we would simply be unable to provide the help our members need to feed their families and provide the comforts of home. The list is endless, but includes never-ending thanks to: Davis IGA, which continually provides packing prowess, financial assistance, donation space, food donations and advice, all on a regular basis, and always with a smile on the collective faces of the warm, friendly staff; and to our local organizations, which include The Kent Lions Club, The Kent Chamber of Commerce, The Kent Community Fund and The Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation.

We are grateful to our local farms that so generously provided fresh produce through the summer, and to Bulls Bridge Body Shop that donates IGA gift cards on a very regular basis, to The Kent School and the very devoted group of teachers and kitchen magicians who helped us endlessly with Christmas meal planning. Thanks also to our local restaurants: The Fife 'n' Drum, Cozzy's Pizza and The Kent Pizza Garden, which, though facing such difficult and untoward circumstances themselves, continue to assist The Kent Food Bank in any way they can.

The list goes on and on, and our gratitude, and that of our Kent Food Bank members, knows no bounds. We thank you all.

Leah Pullaro, LMSW
Director of Social Services
Debbe Christensen
Administrative Assistant
Social services, town of Kent

Kent

More letters previous page.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

CONTINUED

There he again saw the happy couple and found that, from Torrington, they planned to go to their new home in Sharon, where the license had been issued. He followed them there, and when they were at home he again called them before him. "I now pronounce you man and wife — in the town of Sharon," he said. He chuckled, "That should make it perfectly legal."

TACONIC — Allen and Leonard Pierson, brothers, lost their lives early Wednesday morning, when the house in Taconic rented by Allen Pierson was consumed by fire despite the efforts of three fire departments.

CANAAN — With the appointment of Trooper Stanley P. Szciesiul to a new post in Hartford last month, a search began for a suitable replacement as resident state trooper for Salisbury. A replacement has been found, in the person of Trooper Robert Smithwick, who began his duties here on Jan. 1. Trooper Smithwick has served with the Canaan Barracks since August of 1963.

An open house celebrating the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth A. Hart of West Main Street, Canaan, was held Dec. 20 at

the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth A. Merz of Cornwall Bridge.

25 years ago — January 1996

Iman, the daughter of Natalie and Theodore Golden of Wingdale, N.Y., was the first baby born at Sharon Hospital in 1996. She was born Tuesday, Jan. 2, at 4:33 a.m.

Burton Brook still flows toward Main Street in Lakeville, but Wednesday found it buried beneath a fresh blanket of snow. The winter's latest storm dropped more than a half foot of snow over the entire region, extending Region 1 students' Christmas vacation by one more day.

The Lakeville Journal landed in the national late night talk show spotlight Tuesday when actress Jane Curtin, a Sharon resident, read from the local newspaper on The Tonight Show with host Jay Leno. The actress read from staff reporter Charlotte Reid's "Have You Noticed?" column in the Dec. 21 edition of The Journal.

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

A tribute to a lovely library that needs to grow

Plans are being presented in 2021 to the town of Sharon for a renovation and expansion of the town's library, known as the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon. Plans were most recently presented in 2008 for a similar expansion and at that time this history of the building was published in *The Lakeville Journal*.

Khurshed Bhumgara, who wrote and researched the history, was vice president of the Hotchkiss Library Board of Directors and head of the library's building committee at the time. He died in 2014 at the age of 78.

By Khurshed Bhumgara

SHARON — The Sharon Green is a pristine Colonial-era green surrounded by Colonial-era buildings. Or is it?

Look again and you will see a fine example of late-Victorian architecture in the form of The Hotchkiss Library, a Romanesque Revival structure designed by one of the foremost architects of his time — Bruce Price (1845-1903), the original architect of Tuxedo Park in New York state, the first planned and gated community in America (Price was also the father of Emily Post).

Maria Bissell Hotchkiss decided that in memory of her deceased husband, Benjamin Berkeley Hotchkiss, she would donate a library to Sharon and

a preparatory school to Lakeville; the preparatory school is now the world-famous Hotchkiss School.

One story is that Sharon had the choice of the school or the library and chose the library.

The bust of Benjamin Hotchkiss, a creation of the well-known expatriate sculptor Moses Jacob Ezekiel, to this day presides over the library from its current location on the second floor. The bust dates back to 1879 and was executed in Paris, where Ezekiel was living at the time.

It was Timothy Dwight V, the president of Yale, who encouraged Maria Hotchkiss to found the preparatory school as a conduit for students to enter Yale, and who most likely recommended Bruce Price of New York as the architect for both gifts.

Bruce Price had designed several buildings at Yale, some of which are still standing (such as Welch Hall) although one of the most prominent, Osborn Hall, was taken down in a dispute with the town. Osborn Hall also was a Romanesque Revival building, although much larger than the Hotchkiss Library.

By 1893, Bruce Price had already established himself as one of the leading architects of his era with the construction of the Chateau Frontenac in Quebec, hotels and stations for

the Canadian Pacific Railroad, office buildings and private residences.

Working in the Romanesque style unique to Henry Hobson Richardson (most famous for the Trinity Church in Boston), Price is reputed to have been a major influence on Frank Lloyd Wright.

In New York City, in addition to the office buildings he collaborated with the sculptor of the Lincoln Memorial, Daniel Chester French, on the Richard Morris Hunt Memorial (1898), which is set into the wall of New York's Central Park across from the Frick Museum at 70th Street.

The Hotchkiss Library is a major part of the very fabric of the late 19th- and early 20th-century architectural movement in America.

However, what makes the Hotchkiss Library so unique is that it is believed to be the only Bruce Price building where the major parts of the interior are virtually untouched since its very first day.

The library opened on Sept. 13, 1893, after about a year of construction. Maria Hotchkiss was personally involved in many of the details, including the choice of the local-quarried gray and white limestones used, having rejected the first two choices that had been submitted to her for approval.

The woodwork was done

by D.N. Eggleston, who lived within a few steps of the new library, and the stonework was done by John Flynn of Great Barrington.

A detailed description of the library immediately after it opened was given by Charles Sedgwick in his book "History of Sharon," written in 1898, and in reading the description it is clear that very little has changed, although several stacks, new lighting and handrails, none of which are of the period, have been added.

The library still has the original 10 leaded glass demilune windows, commemorating Homer, Virgil, Moliere, Goethe and Dante in the north parlor and Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Franklin and Longfellow in the south parlor, as well as the original golden oak interior and even the original brass hardware.

The original fireplaces, made of glazed brick and Mexican onyx and with the original andirons are still in place, although one is hidden behind some modern book stacks and neither is functioning at this time.

For a comparison of the library interior as it looked around 1900 and today one can look at the photographs recently taken by Jonathan Doster of Sharon.

The older pictures of the library were developed from the original glass negatives found



PHOTO REPRODUCED BY JONATHAN DOSTER

This photo of the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon was taken in 1900. The glass negative was reproduced by Sharon resident Jonathan Doster in 2008, when plans were first being made to renovate and expand the cozy library.

in a desk on the upper level of the library.

A comparison of the old images with a more recent one shows that very little has changed.

As Charles Sedgwick states in his book, the upstairs and much of the ground floor had empty bookshelves for future expansion.

The library started with 2,640 books; today, after much culling, the library has some 14,000 items including books, normal sized and large print, and on tape, DVDs, video cassettes and periodicals. The space is woefully inadequate for the present collection and certainly will not meet the needs of the coming years and

decades. Hence the need for a restoration and an expansion.

Board member Brian Ross sent an update to this 2008 article: "Our collection size is about the same now as it was in 2008 (about 14,500), as we don't really have the room to expand it.

"The expansion will help but it mostly is to accommodate the expanded programs the library has successfully launched: film series, Sunday at 4 lectures, growing book club groups and increased children's programs.

"And most of all it is about finally providing access for so many patrons with walkers, wheelchairs.

"And giving the building a spiffing up that it has needed for so many years."

One Black NW Corner family's link to the NAACP

By Leila Hawken

SALISBURY — A Zoom talk sponsored by the Salisbury library and the historical society managed to cover 300 years of the history of a Black family from Salisbury.

The Scoville Memorial Library hosted the event, which attracted 100 viewers — including robust attendance of Cesar family descendants from throughout the nation.

These generations of Black lives mattered greatly in contributing to the early history of the Northwest Corner towns and subsequently to the nation.

Family historian Katherine Overton was joined in conversation by historian and Salisbury School faculty member Rhonan Mokriski, who in turn premiered a showing of a film created by Salisbury School students detailing their search for traces of the early Cesar

homestead.

Five generations of the Cesar family made their homes in Northwest Corner towns, spanning 140 years in the area.

The last family member to live in the area was Rae Eleanor Williams, who graduated from Lakeville High School in 1936, departing to attend Howard University, Overton noted.

Timothy Cesar, originally from New York, served in the Revolutionary War as part of a Black regiment known as the 6th Connecticut, Overton reported with pride.

Rachel Cesar was Timothy's mother and progenitor of the family line. She was native American. Because the children of that time aligned with their mothers' status, the ensuing generations lived lives as free people.

"I've always been a proud American," Overton empha-

sized. Overton described her historical research as "knitting threads." Records and information are often spotty, but she found a document with Rachel's name from January 1789. She was living in Dartmouth, Mass., and being boarded by the state as an "Indian pauper." She lived to be 104.

Another family member, Titus, lived in Salisbury as a landowner and is buried in Town Hill Cemetery, Overton said. George and Eleanor lived in Sharon, owning 130 acres on Sharon Mountain. They are buried in Hillside Cemetery in Sharon.

In 1870 came the passage of the 15th Amendment, clearing the way for Black men to vote. The Cesars created a family poster marking the date, July 4, as a date for a parade and a celebration.

A guiding principle with-

in the Cesar family was the advancement offered by education. Education was key to the success of so many of the Cesar women throughout the generations, Overton said.

"We all did not live the same lifestyle," Overton said, but the emphasis was on education, education and education.

The Cesars' story intertwines with that of the early years of Troutbeck in Amenia, Overton said.

Her great-uncle Arthur served for many years as the chauffeur for Joel Elias Spingarn, who was in turn essential to the story of the founding of the NAACP.

Mokriski spoke of the power of oral history in handing down the family stories that guided much of Overton's research and quoted an African proverb that says, "Until the lion learns to write, every story will glorify the hunter."

point of pride for communities, but the tradition faded out.

Woodward suggested that the tradition could be usefully revived right now, with a disputed election continuing to dominate the headlines.

Bring back the 'election cake'

Peering into the corners of Connecticut's past

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — State historian Walt Woodward talked about his new book, "Creating Connecticut," on Saturday, Nov. 14. The talk was sponsored by the Scoville Memorial Library.

Woodward began with an anecdote from his graduate student days. He was somewhat taken aback when the historian and academic Richard D. Brown asked the graduate seminar a seemingly simple question: Why did the author write this book?

Woodward said the grad students spent weeks on the topic, trying to figure out why someone would spend hours or days reading it?

"Creating Connecticut" contains 24 stories: 12 short, 12 long, and, said the author, they are readable, engaging and likely new to most readers.

"Restless Beginnings" covers the 50 or so years, starting in 1614, when the Dutch exerted a great deal of influence over what became Connecticut.

"Time is the acid rain of historical memory," Woodward noted, and the Dutch role in Connecticut is one of the casualties.

The standard historical narrative of English settlers and native Americans, and then patriots vs. Tories, does not account for the fact that for 50 years, nobody did anything in Connecticut without calculating how the Dutch would react.

Woodward spent some time on the history of witch hunting in Connecticut, observing that the state went from being rather enthusiastic about prosecuting and executing witches to bringing a stop to the practice.

The book covers the westward migration from Connecticut to the area of what is now northeast Ohio known as the Connecticut Western Reserve.

Woodward noted those people who left in the early 1800s were a) mostly young and b) looking for economic opportunities that did not exist at home, and he observed that history seemed to be repeating itself in the early 21st century.

One chapter discusses the Irish presence in Connecticut, and how the Irish went from vilified minority in the early 1800s to dominating civil service, skilled trades, education and organized labor by the early 1900s.

Woodward spoke about Samuel Clemens (aka Mark Twain) and his tobacco habit.

Clemens, about to embark on a lengthy sea voyage, was giving a talk in New Haven.

Prior to the talk, he sent his assistant to a tobacconist for 3,000 cheroots (small cigars) and 15 pounds of bulk tobacco.

The prospect of being on board a ship and running out of smoking materials must have been on his mind, for the assistant was sent back to the shop not once but twice for more cigars, for a total of 7,500. (Plus the bulk tobacco.)

The state historian finished up with an argument for the revival of a Connecticut tradition: the election cake.

This was a enormous cake served on election day and available to all comers, regardless of political affiliation, Woodward said.

The tradition goes back to the Puritans, he continued. The Puritans did not celebrate the usual Christian holidays, never mind secular celebrations such as New Year's Day.

But they did think the 1662 royal charter from Charles II, which gave Connecticut a much larger degree of political independence than the other British colonies, was worth celebrating.

And that took the form of cake.

Election cake became a

The softly rounded peaks of our region

By Patrick L. Sullivan

CORNWALL — Hugh Cheney provided an overview of the region's geology on a Zoom talk hosted by the Cornwall Library Saturday, Nov. 21.

Cheney, who has taught at Salisbury School and the Marvelwood School, said that unlike mountains created relatively recently by tectonic uplift, such as the Tetons (created some 650,000 years ago), the Appalachian Mountains (of which the Northwest Corner of Connecticut's peaks are a subset) are much older.

The "post-erosional landscape" of familiar landmarks such as Bear Mountain date back some 225 million years, he said, and present a "soft, rounded" look compared to the jagged peaks of younger mountains.

The area that is now the northeastern United States was equatorial 225 million years ago, and shared the same characteristics as part of what is now Africa.

Africa and North America "squished" an ocean between them as the plates moved, which is why fossil evidence from the Connecticut coast is the same as that found along the African coast.

The Housatonic River valley is mostly marble, with fill left over from the retreat of the 10,000 feet of ice that once covered the area.

Cheney showed a series of slides that illustrated his points.

One particularly humbling one showed the gradual divergence of the planet's land masses, starting at 225 million years ago.

"The red dot is Cornwall," said Cheney.

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LEGAL NOTICE TAX COLLECTOR

TOWN OF SALISBURY CT
Pursuant to Sec 12-145 of the Connecticut State Statutes, the taxpayers of the Town of Salisbury are hereby notified that the third installment on the Grand List of October 1, 2019 is due and payable on January 1, 2021.

Pursuant to Section 12-71b of the Connecticut State Statutes, the Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax is due on January 1, 2021. Payments must be received or postmarked by February 1, 2021. If said Real Estate, Personal Property and Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes are not paid on or before February 1, 2021, interest at the rate of one and one half percent (18% per year) will be added for each month or a fraction thereof which elapses from the time when such tax becomes due and payable until the same is paid. Minimum interest charge is \$2.00. Taxpayers who have applied for and have had applications (applications due by February 1, 2021) approved for Deferment per Executive Order No 9R for tax bills due and payable January 1, 2021, payment deadline is April 1, 2021, without interest. Taxes can be paid by mail addressed to: Tax Collector, P.O. Box 338, Salisbury, CT 06068 or may be dropped off in the drop box located in the vestibule of the Town Hall, 9am-4pm, Monday through Friday, or online at acipayonline.com, jurisdiction code 1759 (there is a fee for this service). NO CASH will be accepted.

Dated at Town of Salisbury CT this 21st day of December 2020.

Jean F. Bell, CCMC
Tax Collector
Salisbury CT 06068
12-24-20
01-07-21
01-21-21

NOTICE-Town of Canaan (Falls Village)

The State of Connecticut is mandating that each of the 169 towns create a plan to achieve 10% affordable housing in their community.

The Town of Canaan (Falls Village) is taking applications for three community members to share their perspective by participating with an existing working group. The Task Team will draft a Municipal Affordable Housing Plan to be adopted by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The group will meet via Zoom for 60-90 minutes once a month for 9 months beginning January 21, 2021 (time will be determined by consensus). There may be some work required between meetings, as well as collaboration with Planning & Zoning. The group will be led by a professional facilitator using a process guidebook provided by state.

The goal is to have a diverse cross-section of the community represented, with a specific need for renters, younger adults and parents of school-aged children to apply.

Applications are available at the Hunt Library, Falls Village Post Office and the Town website www.canaanfallsvillage.org. Applicants will be reviewed by the Board of Selectmen.

Submit no later than 01/15/21 to:

ATTN: Selectmen, Town of Canaan, PO Box 47, 108 Main Street, Falls Village, CT 06031 01-07-21

LEGAL NOTICE Town of Canaan/ Falls Village

Notice to pay Taxes
Pursuant to Sec. 12-145 of the Connecticut statutes, the undersigned Tax Collector of the Town of Canaan/Falls Village gives notice that she will be ready to

receive Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes and the second installment of Real Estate and Personal Property taxes due January 1, 2021. Payments can be made via mail, online or dropped off at our secure drop box located at the Canaan/Falls Village Town Hall, located at, 108 Main St., PO Box 47, Falls Village CT 06031.

Due to increase surge of COVID, the Office is NOT open to the public. Check Canaanfallsvillage.org for updates. Normal Office Hours in January Monday 9am-3pm & Wednesday 9am-Noon.

Payments must be received or postmarked by February 1, 2021 to avoid interest.

Any unpaid balance after February 1, 2021 will be charged a temporary reduced rate of interest at 0.25% per month from January 1-March 31, 2021. This temporary reduced rate of interest only applies to the January 1 installment of taxes. This does not apply to any delinquent tax due from July 2020 or subsequent years.

On April 1, 2021 interest will be charged from January 1, 2021 at the rate of 1.5% for each month elapsing from the due date of the delinquent tax to the date of payment, with a minimum interest charge of \$2.00. Sec. 12-146

Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the taxpayer of his/her responsibility for the payment of taxes or delinquent charges. Sec. 12-130. Dated at Canaan/Falls Village, Connecticut this 22nd day of December, 2020.

Rebecca Juchert-Derungs
Canaan/Falls Village
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CAFETERIA ASSISTANT WANTED: Salisbury Central School is seeking candidates for the position of Cafeteria Assistant. Duties include helping to prepare/serve meals to students and adults, clean/sanitize school kitchen, use kitchen equipment and follow sanitation rules and regulations as set by the state. Prior food service experience and Qualified Food Handlers certification a plus. Hours are 8:00 am to 2:00 pm (M-Th) and 8:00 am to 1:30 pm (Friday). Work days (182) follow the school year calendar. To apply, go to region1schools.org and click on Search Open Vacancies under Employment Opportunities. Call 860-435-9871 with questions.

BUSINESS MANAGER: Silver Lake Conference Center is a year-round faith-based outdoor ministry site in Sharon. Business Manager's responsibilities include: manage and track operational budget, including reports, forecasts, trends, cost analysis; year-round retreat business, including sales, marketing, booking, billing; day-to-day business operation, including working with vendors, payroll, workers comp, database management; administrative support of summer camp program. Must have strong problem-solving and communication skills and work well with a team. Experience in accounting, sales, budgeting, payroll. Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience. For full position description and application instructions, email jobs@silverlakect.org. EOE.

CARPENTERS WANTED: Local established company looking for qualified carpenters. Segalla's TurnKey Housing, LLC. is looking for a few carpenters with varying levels of expertise to join an established team. Must be able to work well with others performing a varied list of tasks from siding and roofing to finish trim. Competitive wages, 401K, and health insurance offered. Please contact us at rsegalla@sbcbglobal.net or 860-824-0019.

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HELP WANTED, TOWN OF SHARON, CT, ROAD MAINTAINER: The Town of Sharon is accepting applications for a full time Road Crew Member with the Sharon Highway Department. A CDL (Class A or B) is required. Applications and job description can be obtained at the Selectmen's Office, 63 Main Street, P.O. Box 385, Sharon, CT 06069 weekdays from 9AM to 12 Noon and 1PM to 4PM or phone 860-364-5789. Hourly rate \$22.65 and is a Union Position. Benefits include health insurance, life insurance, short-term disability insurance, paid holidays, pension after one year of service and paid vacation after one year of service. Applications along with resume must be received by 4:00 PM Thursday, January 22, 2021 at the above address. The Town of Sharon is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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