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# The Lakeville Journal

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THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2020 \$1.25

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

## Protests against police injustice held in Salisbury

By Hunter O. Lyle

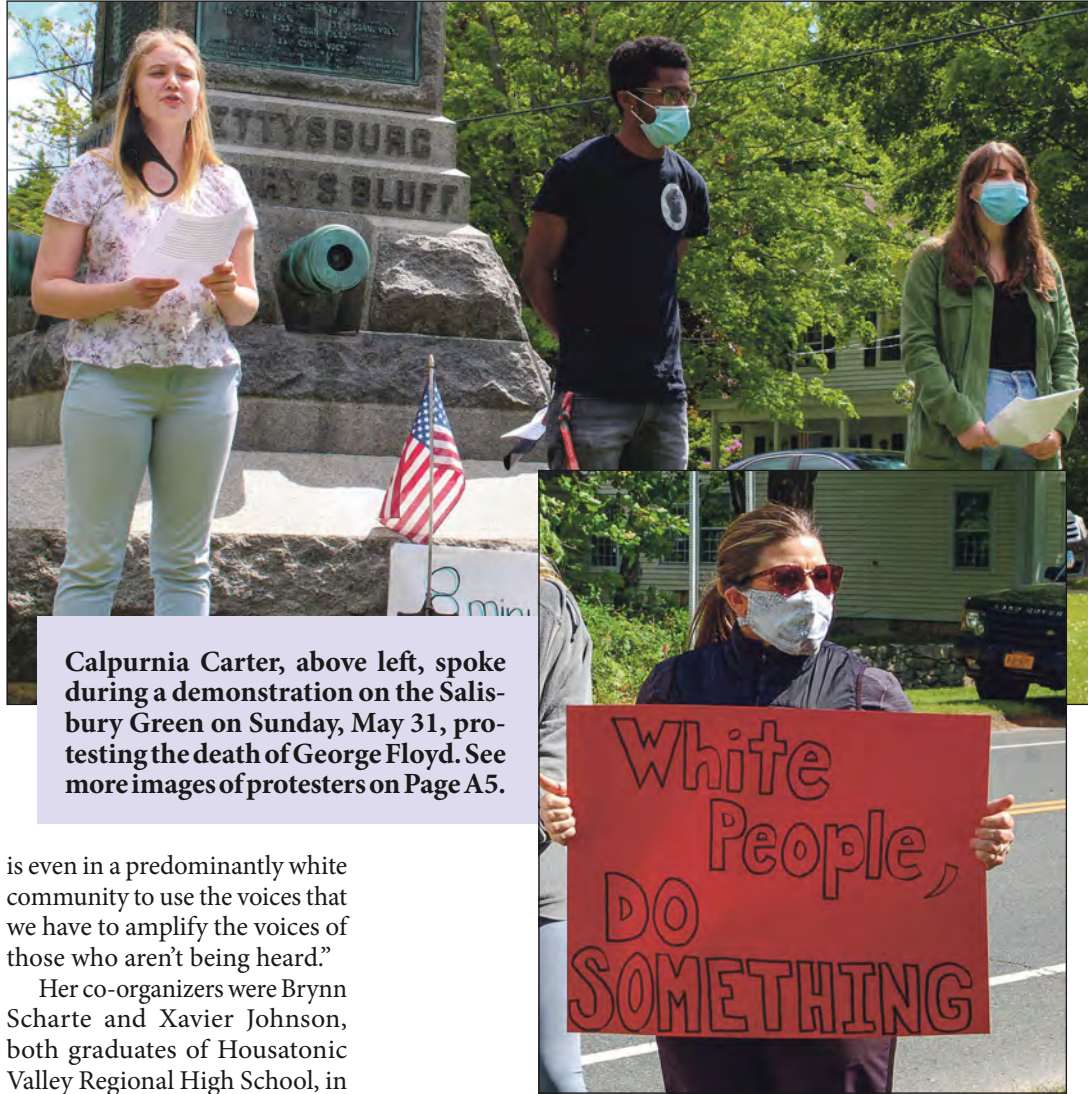
SALISBURY — On Sunday afternoon, May 31, an estimated 250 people carrying signs calling for justice congregated on the Salisbury Green to protest the recent death of George Floyd, who was killed in Minneapolis, Minn., while being detained by police on Monday, May 25.

A similar protest was held on the Green on Saturday morning by the group that meets there weekly to call for peace. Sixteen additional people took part in the vigil.

"Acting on the belief that silence is complicity, area residents demanded justice for the murder of George Floyd," said one of the protesters, Amy Lake of Lakeville.

Calpurnia Carter is a rising sophomore at Manhattan College in Bronx, N.Y., who grew up in Falls Village and is a graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School. She and two friends planned the Sunday event a day in advance, reaching out across multiple social media platforms.

"My main goal was to raise awareness of how serious this is in this area, considering it's such a predominantly white area," Carter said. "I want more people to understand how important it



Calpurnia Carter, above left, spoke during a demonstration on the Salisbury Green on Sunday, May 31, protesting the death of George Floyd. See more images of protesters on Page A5.

is even in a predominantly white community to use the voices that we have to amplify the voices of those who aren't being heard."

Her co-organizers were Brynn Scharte and Xavier Johnson, both graduates of Housatonic Valley Regional High School, in the classes of 2019 and 2020.

See BLACK LIVES, Page A5

## CT State Police statement on the death of George Floyd

The Connecticut State Police released on Monday, June 1, this statement about the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer. The letter is signed by Commissioner James C. Rovella and Deputy Commissioner Colonel Stavros Mellekas.

A week ago today, a death occurred in Minneapolis. We in law enforcement are not unfamiliar with death, we see it often in many different forms; but the death of George Floyd was different. The indefensible circumstances of this act were carried out in broad daylight, in the middle of a public street by an individual wearing a badge. This individual swore an oath to protect the members of his community, and failed that most basic duty. It was very apparent that this individual used completely unnecessary, unjustifiable force against someone in handcuffs. In that moment, communities were shattered. This individual does not represent police officers.

We extend our sincere condolences to those who knew and loved George Floyd.

To say we condemn this behavior is accurate, but still, the word "condemn" doesn't begin to come close to what we're feeling. We saw what you saw. We watched in disbelief as that individual calling himself a police officer kept his knee on the neck of a human being for almost nine minutes. Why? We're not trained to do this in our police academies. There was no immediate threat. Those police officers on scene, including those that stood around and did nothing, simply failed. They failed not just on a law enforcement level, but on a basic human level.

We are sad, we are angry and we are disgusted. Sad for George Floyd, his family, friends and the people of Minneapolis. We're sad for those minority communi-

See FLOYD, Page A9

## CT Supreme Court rules on race tracks

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LIME ROCK — In a decision made public on May 22, the state Supreme Court ruled that town planning and zoning commissions may regulate auto racing tracks. The decision resolves multiple legal actions taken by Lime Rock Park (an auto racing track in the Lime Rock section of Salisbury), Salisbury's Planning and Zoning Commission and the Lime Rock Citizen's Council.

The primary issue: Does a state law allowing auto racing mean that municipalities cannot regulate auto racing within their borders? The state Supreme Court reversed a lower court de-

cision and said that towns may in fact regulate auto racing — including a ban on Sunday racing, such as the one that has existed in Salisbury for decades.

In 2015, Lime Rock Park owner Skip Barber went to court to try to amend a 1959 injunction governing track activities. (The injunction has been modified several times since 1959.) That effort was subsequently put on hold until the state Supreme Court ruled.

Any racing on Sundays had been prohibited by the injunction. The track wanted to add some Sundays to the schedule.

Also in 2015, the Salisbury Planning and Zoning Com-

mission considered a package of amendments to the town's zoning regulations concerning the track.

A group of residents who are neighbors of the track formed a group called the Lime Rock Citizens Council to oppose Sunday racing in particular and to lobby for keeping the status quo.

### Superior Court decision

In Superior Court Judge John D. Moore's 97-page "amended memorandum of decision," released in July 2019, Moore found in favor of the track on the question of Sunday racing, saying that state law allowed for racing on Sundays after noon. However,

See COURT, Page A9

## The Northwest Corner and the roots of Sesame Street, in June 12 author talk

By Debra A. Aleksinas

LAKEVILLE — A "happy accident" is how author David Kamp describes the optimistic contingent of Northwest Corner residents who, in the early 1970s, helped revolutionize educational television for children, thereby closing the "achievement gap" between kids from lower-income and middle-class households.

Among those who contributed to the cultural movement a half century ago that created beloved shows like Sesame Street, The Electric Company and The Muppets, and were among the originators of the nonprofit Children's Television Workshop (CTW), are names with deep roots in the area: the late Robert Hatch, owner and editor of The Lakeville Journal from 1986 to 1995 and an originator of CTW; Frank Oz, former Cornwall resident and the creative genius behind several Sesame Street characters; and Al Gottesman, Henson's long-time attorney and one of The Lakeville Journal Company's investors since 1995.

Kamp, author of the newly released book by Simon & Schuster, "Sunny Days: The Children's Television Revolution that Changed America," will talk on June 12 about the pivotal time in history when children's television came of age. The online event will benefit the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon.

### Hatch helped build CTW

"Bob Hatch was a major player in the launch of Sesame Street," said Kamp.



PHOTO BY WENDY CARLSON

Author David Kamp will talk about his new book on Children's Television Workshop on Friday, June 12.

As the public relations executive for Sesame Street, "Bob Hatch did an excellent job getting the show onto the public's radar," said Kamp.

Before its launch in November 1969, Hatch helped solicit support for the idea of television as an educational tool among parents, in Congress and among educators. In 1972 he was appointed vice president of public affairs for CTW.

### Oz, the vet and the shiba inu

In addition to serving as legal counsel to Henson, it appears that Al Gottesman was an inspiration for a character on Hen-

son's colorful puppet program, Fraggle Rock, which debuted in 1983 and enjoyed a four-year run.

According to the website Muppet Wiki, Gottesman is the name of Sprocket's veterinarian, mentioned as simply "the vet" in several episodes.

Kamp had an overlap with another essential Sesame Street creator: Frank Oz, who was the voice of many of Henson's Muppets, including Miss Piggy, Fozzie Bear, Cookie Monster, Bert and Grover. He also was the

See KAMP, Page A9

## HVRHS graduation will be at Lime Rock Park

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Housatonic Valley Regional High School will hold a socially distant graduation ceremony at Lime Rock Park on Sunday, June 21, at 4 p.m.

Principal Ian Strever announced the plan at the June 1 meeting of the Region One School District Board of Education.

Students (and family members) will come to the track's gate on White Hollow Road at 3:30

p.m., where they will be directed to a staging area for temperature screening using hand-held infrared thermometers.

Anyone with a temperature higher than 100.8 degrees F will be taken out of the line and to a nearby location for additional screening.

As they pass through the checkpoint, drivers will receive a credential from the track and an event program.

Just before 4 p.m., drivers will proceed to the track's straightaway and finish line, where track staff will arrange the cars facing the grandstand.

A ceremony will take place from the flagging platform that will include the superintendent, principal and three student

speakers, all speaking from the same location, with a covering over the microphone that will be replaced after each speaker. The principal will then read the names of the graduates, all of whom (with the exception of the speakers) will remain in their cars throughout the ceremony.

Lastly, the class president will read the Oath of Athenian Youth.

Upon completion of the ceremony, students will follow Lime Rock staff directions to exit the facility in parade fashion and proceed to the high school via routes 7 and 126 in Falls Village to Warren Turnpike Road and the high school.

Faculty will be positioned

See GRAD, Page A9



### NW CORNER FARMS

Hawthorne Valley Farm Ghent	Rock Steady Farm Millerton	Moon in the Pond Farm Sheffield	Mead's Maple Syrup Farm Canaan Valley	Ridgway Farm Cornwall	Husky Meadows Farm Norfolk
Paley's Farm Market Sharon	Weatogue Farm Salisbury	Mountain View Farm Falls Village	Lone Silo Farm Canaan	Freund's Farm Market East Canaan	Lost Ruby Farm Norfolk
Whippoorwill Farm Salisbury	Calf and Clover Creamery Cornwall Bridge	Howling Flats Farm North Canaan	Birdseye & Tanner Brooks Farm West Cornwall	Zinke Homegrown North Canaan	
QFarms Sharon	Marble Valley Farm Kent	Adamah Falls Village	Beavertides Farm Falls Village		

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## In The Journal this week

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### Three-day forecast

Friday..... Showers, high 82°/low 64°  
 Saturday..... Cloudy, 80°/53°  
 Sunday..... Cloudy, 71°/48°

## 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.

### Sexual assault of a minor

On May 23, 2019, Troop B received a notification from the Connecticut Department of Children and Families reporting the alleged sexual assault of a 9-year-old male victim that occurred several years ago in Salisbury when the alleged victim was 5 years old. Following a lengthy investigation, Marcus Jonathon Baker, 24, of Torrington was taken into custody on May 22, 2020, and charged with risk of injury to a child and sexual assault in the first degree. He was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court that same day.

### Breach of peace

On May 24 at approximately 11:40 a.m. Troop B investigated a report of trespassing at 12 Hickory Lane in Cornwall. During the investigation, Anne Berge, 56, of Cornwall was issued a misdemeanor summons for breach of peace in the second degree. She was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on June 15.

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

## TREE WATCH



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Trails beneath the bark show the ash borers' tunneling.

### Close look at the emerald ash borer

The emerald ash borer has been working its way through the Northwest Corner's ash trees in the past year or so, killing them from the inside.

Many of the trees that were cut down along roadsides this spring were infected ash trees.

Lou Timolat at the Falls Village Saw Mill recently received a truckload of ash trees, with their bark falling off due to the ash borers' predations.

This photo shows their trail

along the tree trunk, creating a pattern that's similar to a computer chip.

— Cynthia Hochswender

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

Check them out inside.

- CVS
- Herrington's

## Send in fundraiser recipes

During the COVID-19 quarantine, most nonprofit organizations have had to cancel their annual (and much loved) fundraising meals, from pancake breakfasts to chili suppers.

This is not only a loss to the community, it is also a loss to the nonprofits, which count on the funds those meals provide.

The Lakeville Journal Co. is preparing a special issue of Compass arts and entertainment that will be included with our issue of July 2. In that issue we will include recipes from some of our local organizations for their ham or lasagna or corned beef or roast beef or cakes or cookies or pies.

We are now collecting those recipes from any nonprofits that would like to participate. We will publish them with a couple sentences explaining what that organization does for the community.

And we will remind our readers that the \$5 or \$10 or \$20 they spend on a meal at the firehouse or the legion hall is meaningful even in normal times; and is even more meaningful at this time. We hope that seeing these delicious reminders of those favorite community meals will not only spark some nice memories, but will also encourage community members to make donations large or small to the nonprofits that work so hard to keep our communities intact.

Any nonprofits and their donor cook/bakers are asked to send in their recipes by Wednesday, June 3, to [cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com). If you do not get confirmation, check back with us, it might mean we didn't receive it. If you have a lovely photo of the finished food, please feel free to share it.

It would be wonderful if you could share some of the history of your recipe and who first developed it and how long it's been used for (and of course please indicate which nonprofit event it is made for).

Some fundraiser meals have a single recipe that is used again and again; others function on a donation basis, where home bakers or cooks provide their own best lasagna or pie or cake or cookies. Please do send us recipes whether it's used by everyone each year or whether it's something you cooked or baked individually and donated.

Restaurants are also invited to send in a recipe for a dish that is served at a fundraising event each year, such as the chicken pot pie dinner at The White Hart for the Salisbury Winter Sports Association.

We look forward to working together with you on this issue. For questions and recipes, again, contact Cynthia Hochswender at [cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com)

## At HVRHS, 27 named to National Honor Society

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Peter Vermilyea, the advisor to the National Honor Society (NHS) at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, announced on May 18 that the following students at HVRHS have been selected for the Eleanor Roosevelt Chapter of the NHS:

Eli Abbott, Justine Allyn, Maggie Bickford, Hope Carlson, Charlotte Clulow, Elaine Dekker, Jacob Ellington, Alexis Galgano, Sirena Gualan, Kirstyn Hoage, Serena Kim, Cassidy Knutson, Henry Lopez, Aliza Luminati, Micah Matsudaira, Aidan McCarthy, Pat Merrill, Ashlee Minacci, Natalie Nestler, Neve O'Connell, John Purdy, Mary Riccardelli, Emerson Rinehart, Brandon Sorrell, Brooke Stampfle, Mia

Tittmann, Sarah Upson.

Carlson and Riccardelli are seniors; the remainder are juniors.

There will be an induction ceremony in the fall, if circumstances allow. Certificates will be mailed to the two seniors.

Vermilyea said that membership in the NHS starts with a grade point average of 3.3 for eligibility.

The other criteria are leadership, service and character. Applications are considered by a faculty group.

The application process was underway when schools closed in March in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Vermilyea said.

But the applicants still had to follow through with their essays — which they did.

## FAMILY & FRIENDS

### Academic Bowl team marches on

FALLS VILLAGE — The Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS) Academic Bowl team advanced out of the preliminary round of the National Academic Championship with four wins last week.

This is the 38th annual National Academic Championship. This year's event is being held virtually.

The HVRHS team defeated A. D. Henderson High School (Florida), Rocky Bayou Academy (Louisiana), BioTech High (New Jersey) and Norris High

School (Nebraska), while dropping matches to Southold High School (New York) and Sparkman High School (Alabama).

The team will be in action again in the elimination round of the tournament, which begins Friday, June 5.

Competing for the Mountaineer squad are seniors Shane Stampfle, Arieh Saed and Brianna Webb, and juniors Charlotte Clulow, Jacob Ellington and Keaton Terrall. The team is coached by social studies teacher Peter Vermilyea.

### Salisbury Central School takes home prizes in virtual History Day

SALISBURY — Salisbury Central School students participated in Connecticut History Day on Saturday, May 2. It was a virtual contest this year due to quarantine restrictions. First place in the junior exhibit category went to students Elinor Wolgemuth, Georgette Campagne, Gabby Titone and Tess Marks for their project "Sesame Street: More Than Television," which was also awarded as an outstanding entry related to equality in education by Friends of the Prudence Crandall Museum. Second place in the junior website category went to Salisbury Central students Treasa Connell and Annabel Prinz for "50th Anniversary: Women at Yale."



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**Black Tupelo (*Nyssa*)** – Outstanding in wet areas, with superb fall color. Specimen and small sizes available.

**Yellowwood (*Cladrastis*)** – The beautiful yellowwood. Smooth beech-like bark with wisteria-like blooms in June. A choice specimen tree. Rare Perkins Pink selection available. **Conifers** – An interesting and extensive selection of pines, firs, hemlocks, spruces, cypress and cedar. Choice specimens available, including the beautiful Berkshire Blue concolor fir.

**Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia*), Larch (*Larix*)** – Beautiful deciduous conifers. Weeping selections of Larch and Bald Cypress.

**Giant Tulip (*Liriodendron*)** – Beautiful leaves and flowers. Rare variegated selection available.

**Buckeye and Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus*)** – White and pink selections and the yellow Ohio Buckeye.

**Katsura (*Cercidiphyllum*)** – Beautiful upright specimens with outstanding spring and fall color, including new redleaf selection 'Red Fox'. Weeping form also available.

**Maples (*Acer*)** – Native Sugar and Red and the new cross 'Crimson Sunset' and 'Autumn Blaze' as well as Japanese red, green and gold leaf form. Also the outstanding Acer triflorum, griseum and pseudosieboldianum and the hybrid 'Gingerbread'.

**Oaks (*Quercus*)** – Native Red, Scarlet, Chestnut, White and Burr and the new cross 'Heritage' and fastigiata 'Regal Prince', 'Kindred Spirit' and the Turkish oak.

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## Fiber optic cable as a high-speed internet option

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — The Cornwall Association held an online forum to talk about internet access.

Hosting the remote forum on Monday, May 18, were Gary Steinkohl and Casey Cook of the Cornwall Association.

The Zoom forum drew 27 residents to hear Ben Paletsky of Morris, Conn., present a review of a strategy being developed through the Northwest Hills Council of Governments (COG) and NorthwestConnect. Paletsky is connected to both organizations. Also involved in the forum were members of the Board of Selectmen, the Cornwall Conservation Commission and the Economic Development Commission.

The COG is made up of the first selectmen of 21 area towns. NorthwestConnect

is dedicated to improving high-speed connections to area towns, where it is not uncommon for dial-up to be the fastest speed available.

A few attendees volunteered to join a study committee during the forum. Any Cornwall residents wishing to do the same can email Steinkohl at [www.cornwallassociation.org](mailto:www.cornwallassociation.org).

"COVID-19 has made our assumptions real," Paletsky said, speaking of the immediate need for high-speed rural broadband service. He listed telehealth, remote learning and working from home as three areas that demonstrate that the assumptions of need are now a reality.

Widening the reach of high-speed broadband, Paletsky said, offers advantages including attracting young families to the area and the schools, providing corpo-

rate-level capacity often needed to work from home, promoting home businesses that rely on internet and offering advanced agricultural reach.

"Our download speeds are just OK," Paletsky said of current service. "If we don't do this, we will have major limitations in the future."

One option to be considered is fiber optic cable, offering unlimited speed through glass strands encased in a cable. Of 81 miles of road in Cornwall, Paletsky reported there are fewer than 20 miles of installed fiber optic cable.

One business model being examined for the town would be to have the town provide funding to install and own the fiber optic cables, which would be strung on existing utility poles.

Property owners would then be responsible for the line connecting the main cable to their homes or businesses.

An internet service provider would offer internet and phone for less than current prices, under such a plan.

That model would require that the town form a municipal electric utility to gain access to existing poles.

Costs for internet expansion can include \$50,000 per mile for the trunk wiring, and an estimated average cost of \$1,250 to string from pole to residence/business, depending on the distance. If area towns join in a regional approach, Paletsky said, costs could come down.

More information about the business model and status of planning is available at [www.northwest-connect.org](http://www.northwest-connect.org).

## North Canaan budget gets nod and the mill rate is set

By Leila Hawken

NORTH CANAAN — Three meetings held in rapid succession led to approval of the 2020-21 town and education budgets on Tuesday, May 26, following votes by the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen.

The trio of meetings was held online.

First the Board of Finance met, and noted that no public comment had been received on the municipal and education budget proposals, nor was any comment offered at the meeting. The result was that the Board of Finance voted unanimously to approve the budgets and send them on to the Board of Selectmen for their approval.

Moments later the Board of Selectmen convened their Zoom special meeting to act upon the finance board's recommendation and vote approval of the 2020-21 budgets totaling \$11,533,473. Of that total the education budget comprises \$8,786,455. The selectmen voted unanimously to accept the budgets as presented, clearing the way for the Board of Finance to set the mill rate.

The Board of Finance then convened a third meeting to set the mill rate at 28.25, keeping the rate level from the current year's rate. The town will "borrow" \$228,945 from the general

fund to maintain the mill rate at current levels.

The mill rate determines property taxes in Connecticut towns. A mill represents \$1 in tax for every \$1,000 of assessed property value. A 15-mill tax rate would translate into a tax bill of \$1,500 for the owner of a home assessed at \$100,000.

The grand list is the total assessed value of all taxable property in a town.

Properties are assessed at 70 percent of their total value.

## In Falls Village, a big rise in Region One costs

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The Board of Finance approved the municipal and education spending plans for the town of Canaan (Falls Village) for 2020-21 during an online meeting Thursday, May 28.

The 2020-21 budget for town government spending is \$1,862,244. The 2020-21 budget for education spending (both Lee H. Kellogg school and the town's share of the Region One budget) is \$3,653,737.

The budgets will get final approval from the Board of Selectmen in June. First Selectman Henry Todd reminded everyone that an executive order from Gov. Ned Lamont mandates that municipalities approve their 2020-21 budgets without the usual public meetings, hearings and town meetings, to avoid gathering in large groups during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Board of Finance will set a mill rate at its regular meeting Monday, June 8.

The Board of Finance did conduct a public hearing online on May 28, however. The board started its scheduled special meeting at 6:30 p.m., recessed until 7 p.m., and began the public hearing.

The hearing lasted about 40 minutes, and was largely devoted to a discussion of school enrollment.

After the hearing ended, the finance board resumed its meeting and voted on the spending

plans.

Todd pointed out that Falls Village's assessment from the Region One School District has risen sharply in recent years. Recent eighth-grade classes at the elementary school (Lee Kellogg) have been larger than usual, and the percentage of Falls Village students at the high school, compared to the five other Region One towns, has grown in part because more families in other towns are opting for private schools or Oliver Wolcott Technical School.

The annual Region One assessment is based on the number of students enrolled at the regional high school (Housatonic Valley Regional High School) on Oct. 1 of the preceding school year. The higher the percentage of students from an individual town, the larger the assessment.

Todd said the town used \$342,000 from the general fund in 2019-20, which left a balance of about \$520,000. He said it was likely the town would use the entire surplus in 2020-21.

"This is why we have been so conservative in budgeting this year," he said.

The municipal budget is down \$95,555 (-4.8%) from 2019-20, and the Kellogg School budget is exactly the same as 2019-20 at \$1,977,520.

The Region One assessment is \$1,676,417, which is an increase of \$220,072 (6.41%).

The budgets are posted on the town website, [www.canaanfalls-village.org](http://www.canaanfalls-village.org).

## Progress on railroad spraying

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — Spraying plans for weeds and plants along railroad tracks by the Housatonic Railroad Company were discussed in a conference call between state and town officials. Some resolutions were reached, and they were reported at the regular meeting online of the Cornwall Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, May 19.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway said he had participated in a conference call with state Sen. Craig Miner (R-30), state Rep. Maria Horn (D-64), representatives from the state Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Housatonic Railroad Company. The purpose of the call was to discuss the town's prohibition of spraying in West Cornwall and Cornwall Bridge.

The railroad company has indicated that they will not spray until they evaluate the town's maps and the proximity of homes to the tracks.

"There is nothing left to spray in the railbed," Ridgway reported, explaining that when the spray extends beyond the rail bed, problems arise with trees being killed. The problem is termed "chemical trespass."

Ridgway reported that the DOT was receptive to receiving the town's information, which he called "a good step forward." He also said that the state has removed some of the dead trees along the tracks, a result of previous years' spraying. He has asked that more dead trees be taken down, particularly along River Road.

"Issues are being worked through," Ridgway said.

## Cornwall to buy a truck

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — A new heavy-duty highway truck will be serving the town next fall. The Board of Selectmen approved seeking bids for the new vehicle at their regular meeting online on Tuesday, May 19.

Highway Foreman Jim Vanicky detailed the purchase, which will involve purchasing the truck using funds approved in the 2020-21 budget. The purchase will include the truck chassis and motor and cab.

The town's plow can be installed on the new vehicle.

Bids will be received over the next three weeks, according to the selectmen. Vanicky cautioned that actual delivery may be delayed until as late as October, due to shipping disruptions. Once the truck arrives, then a sand spreader, hydraulics and lights need to be added, so the new truck might not be fully assembled until January.

The oldest truck in the fleet, now 24 years old, will be used

for a trade-in.


Vanicky said the town tries to replace trucks on a regular basis. "We are able to get more out of our trucks because we invest in more heavy-duty models," he said. Such vehicles last longer and retain value.

The selectmen will consider bids and award the purchase contract in June.

## Wave parade for Sharon students

SHARON — Sharon Center School's eighth-grade commencement will take place on Tuesday, June 9. Members of the Sharon community are encouraged to line North Main Street (social distancing and masks required) to celebrate the graduates.

The Graduate Vehicle Wave Parade is expected to begin at 6:15 p.m. The rain date is Wednesday, June 10, at the same time.



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June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30  
*Knitting together*

TUESDAY • 7 PM **HLS Book Group**  
June 2  
*An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones

WEDNESDAY • 10 AM **American History Book Club**  
June 17  
*A Clearing in the Distance* by W. Rybczynski

*Email programs@hotchkisslibrary.org for links*

**Special Events**

**Virtual Book Signing 2.0**

FRIDAY • 7 PM **David Kamp**  
June 12  
*Sunny Days: The Children's Television Revolution That Changed America*

FRIDAY • 7 PM **Michael Isikoff**  
June 26  
*Russian Roulette: The Inside Story of Putin's War On America and the Election of Donald Trump*

**Kids' Programs with Mrs. Sam**

TUESDAY • 3:30 PM **Let's learn About Artists: Matisse**  
June 2  
*Facebook*

WEDNESDAY • 3:30 PM **Story Craft! Hot Air Balloons!**  
June 3  
*Facebook*

SATURDAY • 10:30 AM **Anansi Brunch Bunch!**  
June 6  
*Facebook*

MONDAY • 5:30 PM **Tween Choose Your Own Adventure**  
June 8  
*Zoom*

TUESDAY • 3:30 PM **STEAM TEAM! Coding!**  
June 16  
*Zoom*

SATURDAY • 10:30 AM **Cinderella Brunch Bunch!**  
June 20  
*Zoom*

TUESDAY • 3:30 PM **"Imagine Your Story!"**  
June 23  
*Summer Reading Program Begins! Fairy Tale Mad Lib Event*  
*Zoom*

*Register with Mrs. Sam at [ssaliter@hotchkisslibrary.org](mailto:ssaliter@hotchkisslibrary.org)*

**Don't Miss This**

TUESDAY • 7 PM **Together in a Sudden Strangeness: America's Poets Respond to the Pandemic**  
June 16  
*A Free Night of Poetry on Zoom*

Join Alice Quinn and a star-studded cast of great poets reading poems inspired by our current crisis.

Free. Donations encouraged to benefit Sharon Hospital's fund for healthcare workers and the Library.

*Register at: <http://hotchkisslibrary.eventbrite.com>*

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# What will it take to understand we are all the same?

I have been watching the news about the murder of George Floyd and once again it is clear systemic racism is the rot of America. The ugliness of this underbelly is on full display for all America to witness. There aren't any platitudes or feel-good adages that can make the fanat-

ical bigotry called racism any less terrible.

The murder of George Floyd is one in a long line of murders of black men. Alton Sterling, Michael Brown, Edward Lamont Hunt, Jonathan Ferrell, to name just some of the victims of police shootings and brutality where

little was done. The fact is racism permeates every aspect of life and extends to communities of color especially. The rise of the alt-right movement, which is a white nationalist coalition that wants to expel minorities from the United States has a huge following. An example of

their work is Charlottesville, Va., in August of 2017, when a white supremacist drove his car into a group of protesters and killed one person and injured 19 others. Why? Because the white supremacist was full of hate for those who didn't share his xenophobic views.

After this horrific event, the president of the United States, Donald Trump, declared there were good people on both sides of that event. I don't think "good" people who carry the swastika or the Confederate flag have "good" intentions.

As infantile, bigoted and narcissistic as Donald Trump is, racism didn't start with him. It's unfortunate he became the president of the United States, though, because he fans malicious discrimination that exists in our country. Mr. Trump uses this vitriolic rhetoric to agitate his base of like-minded individuals into thinking that people of color are the enemy. "Make America Great Again" can translate into "Make America White Again."

In the case of Ahmaud Arbery, a white father and son, Gregory and Travis McMichael

## GUEST COMMENTARY

GRETCHEN M. GORDON

saw Mr. Arbery and shot him point-blank after chasing him. These two men thought Mr. Arbery was a burglar, even though all he was doing was jogging and ran in and out of a house under construction. I don't think the McMichaels would have considered such a heinous act if Mr. Arbery had been white.

The truth is unarmed black people are killed at five times the rate of unarmed white people. Is this because of personal biases, fear or the basic mistrust between the police and the minority communities they may serve? I think it is all of the above. We are all products of our environment as children. How we think is formed when we are young by our parents, extended family, schools and the norms of the day. Ignorance and intolerance are taught, not characteristics we are born with.

I have met many good and

decent police officers who abhor these police shootings as much as we all do. They don't sanction any kind of brutality and do their jobs honorably. Unfortunately, we have those police officers who abuse their power and eclipse those who don't.

What does it take for human beings to understand we are all the same — human! When will a person be judged for the content of their character and not the color of their skin? Martin Luther King asked this question and his answer was his murder.

For all the changes of our laws, attitudes and social and political triumphs, we still have that rotten under-core of racism. Until it changes in the hearts of people, we will continue to have police shootings, dehumanizing language, narrow mindedness and intolerance. Yes, we have made progress in our country, but there is still a long road ahead of us. Perhaps there will come a day in the future where we can look at our neighbors and see them, and not just their race, culture or nationality.

Gretchen M. Gordon lives in Sharon.

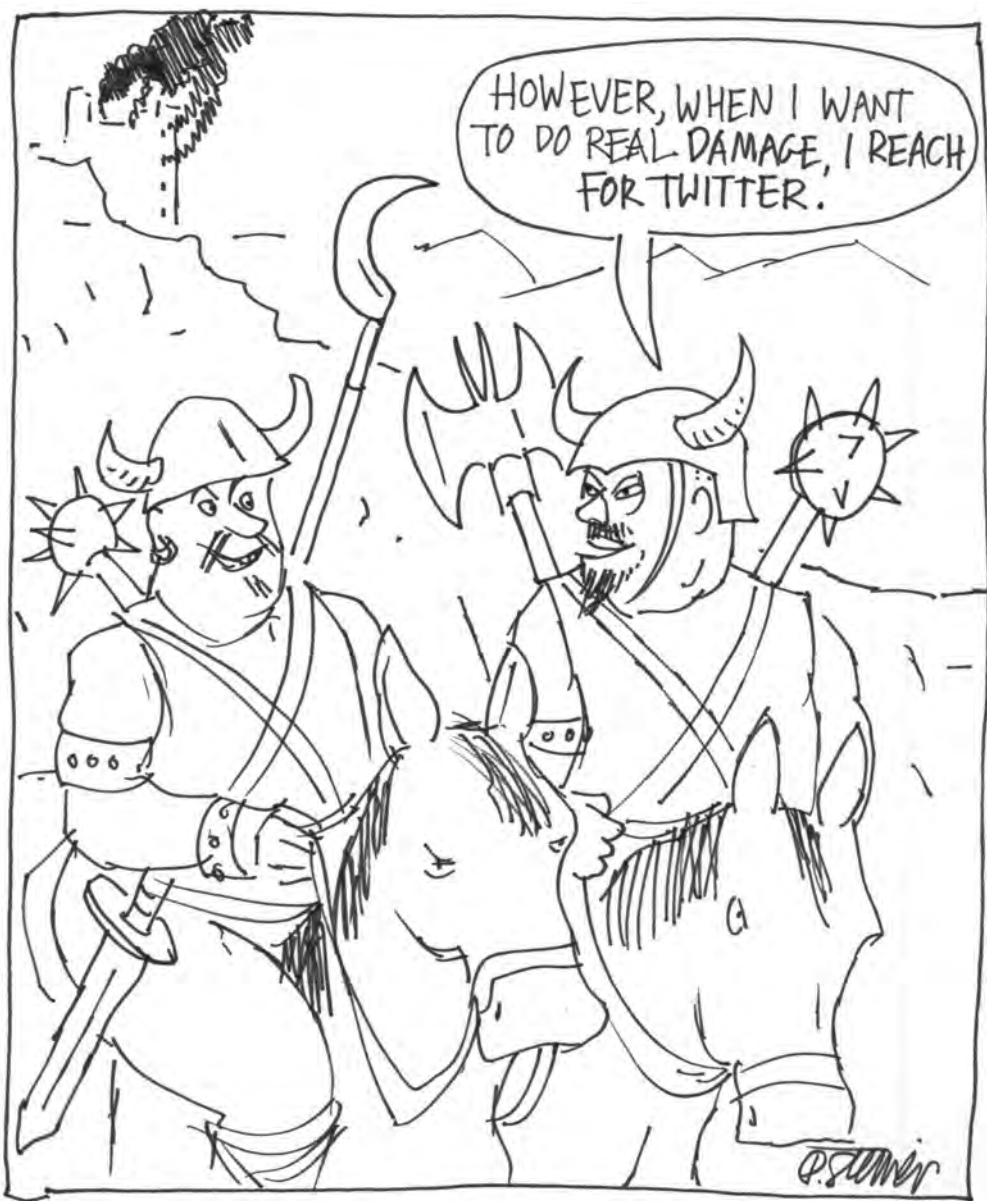


PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More letters next page.

### Education costs too high for Falls Village

The mill rate in Falls Village is set to rise yet again, at a time when neighboring towns have lowered their rates or held them steady.

The primary reason for the increase is a large number of eighth graders leaving the Lee H. Kellogg School for the Housatonic Valley Regional High School — congratulations to the newly minted ninth-graders!

This increases the payment Falls Village must make to HVRHS. But as town officials explained during a virtual town hall meeting on May 28, the payment is even bigger because students from Falls Village now account for a greater percentage of HVRHS students overall, 12.9% compared to 7.7% just two years ago, as parents in other towns opt for private schools.

Thus, tiny Falls Village has little choice but to shoulder a high portion of HVRHS' expenses, a trend that has developed over the last few years. The cost of sending Kellogg graduates to HVRHS increased 41% for the 2019/20 school year and 21.7% for the coming year — or 71.6%

over two years.

The town cannot simply raise its mill rates each year as this trend continues. Its high mill rate makes it unattractive to younger families on tight budgets and depresses its property values.

So savings must be found elsewhere — and the town's biggest expense is the tiny Kellogg school itself. With more students graduating from Kellogg and fewer and fewer children enrolling, the time is ripe for a serious conversation about the sustainability of the school.

Consider the numbers. According to data from the state Department of Education, enrollment in Kellogg has fallen steadily over the past two decades and stood at 67 students in 2020. That's an average of seven to eight students in a grade.

The School + State Finance Project reports that Falls Village taxpayers currently spend \$29,000 to send each student to Kellogg, compared to a state average of \$17,000 per student. North Canaan's taxpayers spend \$23,000 per student, and Salisbury's taxpayers spend \$24,000.

Among towns in the Northwest Corner, only Cornwall spends more, at roughly \$35,000 per student. Yet the mill rate in Cornwall is 16.7, while the rate in Falls Village is 24.6.

Additionally, a handful of "nonresident" students currently attend Kellogg, each paying \$2,000 annually to attend. That means the taxpayers of Falls Village subsidize those students to the tune of \$27,000 apiece.

Maintenance at Kellogg also is increasing. Over the past year, the town has spent at least \$20,000 to remove and replace propane tanks at the school and more than \$8,000 on a new water softener. It now faces a \$10,000 bill to replace two doors.

These expenditures are necessary to operate the facility safely, but at what point does keeping the Kellogg School going cease to make financial sense for Falls Village? The taxpayers of Falls Village should be having that discussion now.

Stephanie and Henrik Falktoft

Falls Village

### So much for all of us to work on together

In the midst of adjusting to COVID-19 recently, I asked for people to reflect on their lives and consider anew, "What does it mean to you and to us to Live Fully?"

That seems a luxury now, so let US All consider, what does it mean to live with compassion for one another in light of the #BlackLivesMatter movement reignited by the tragic turn of events and loss of yet another person to police and systemic injustice and criminal behavior thankfully captured on video for all the world to see?

Joining with the peaceful protestors, our country can take a collective moment of silence and "Say his name: George Floyd!"

The mass protests are addressing publicly that it could be anyone caught in the ravages of systemic imbalance. With the heightened militaristic style of policing and the world in transition on many fronts, everyone has reason to be concerned. Addressing racism, discrimination, and abuse on many levels

has to be a top concern. "Silence equals compliance" is an important talking point, so that's why I'm writing as well...to "Break the Silence About All Forms of Violence." Most realize many aspects of violence in homes, on the streets and in the courts and prison system are related.

The energies are gathering for more people to clarify what is we do want not just what we don't want in these modern times. From grassroots to officials there are ideas to make reparations as Marianne Williamson campaigned for in her presidential bid. Many in leadership call for critical causes such as the environment and healthcare. In addition to local and state elections, the U.S. presidential election in November 2020 is critical to take part in.

With people taking to the streets in the thousands and being supported by millions more to create a just and fair society, all women and children along with men need to clarify and implement strategies to make that happen.

Sharing ideas and resources on a blog in each state representing the needs and wants of women, children and men, particularly of each ethnic group would be a fair place to start.

Hopefully more people of privilege would want to make amends and be part of a solution to show compassion and seek forgiveness for systemic wrongdoing over the centuries in the modern world.

We can work collectively to create meaningful networks and coalitions as well as address concerns locally, on the state and national levels so there is clarity and consistency about how to support one another in advocacy and action on many levels.

We're on our way to an empowered courageous day for everyone to share the load and walk in peace on the road to our shared future. The legacies of those who have gone before us cannot be forgotten but can be honored by our compassion for one another moving forward.

Catherine Palmer Paton  
Falls Village

## Biden should look at RI governor

Having eliminated half of the best qualified Democratic vice presidential candidates by prematurely pledging to limit his choices to women, Joe Biden finds himself in something of a dilemma.

Thanks to the pandemic, 2020 is turning out to be the year of the governor — in both parties — but most of the more prominent and popular governors appear to be of the male persuasion. Unfortunately, most of the possible vice presidents on Biden's short list of female politicians are senators, a political class not particularly admired at a time of crisis when leaders are expected to do things, not just say things.

The president, though unencumbered by any promise of ticket balancing, is unlikely to dump the eternally fawning Mike Pence for one of the suddenly famous Republican governors. This could change, however, if the disease surges in the fall and a governor like Ohio's Mike DeWine or Maryland's Larry Hogan could contribute more to the Trump ticket than Pence.

As a result of their pandemic leadership, all of the governors but one, Georgia's Brian Kemp, have higher approval ratings than Trump, who is in the 43% to 47% range while 49 of the 50 governors have ratings of 54% or higher. An amazing 23 governors have approval ratings higher than 70%.

The most recent poll I've seen has made Hogan, with an 85% rating, the nation's most popular governor, thanks, at least in part, to his exposure as head of the National Governors Conference. Tied for second at 82% are four New England governors, Republicans Charlie Baker of Massachusetts, Chris Sununu of New Hampshire and Phil Scott of Vermont — plus the most popular Democratic governor in America, Gina Raimondo of Rhode Island.

This also makes Raimondo, a two-term governor, the most highly regarded Democratic female politician in America not on Biden's short list of potential vice presidents.

If achievement in public office were a criterion, she would be.

Even though Raimondo's a next door neighbor, we've hardly heard of her, so a bit of biography is in order. The granddaughter of an Italian immigrant

## IF YOU ASK ME

DICK AHLES

who arrived in Rhode Island at 14 and learned English in the Providence Public Library, Raimondo, 49, was educated at Harvard, then at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar and at Yale Law School. Her Harvard BA was awarded magna cum laude in economics and she received a Ph.D. from Oxford.

At 28, she founded her state's first venture capitalist firm, then entered politics as a successful candidate for state treasurer in 2010. In that job, she reformed what was the nation's highest per capita unfunded pension debt by overcoming union opposition to raising the retirement age, pausing cost of living raises and increasing employee contributions to benefit plans.

As governor, she is credited with attracting new businesses and reducing what was the nation's highest unemployment rate while cutting taxes every year. She also raised the hourly minimum wage to \$11.50, eliminated 30% of the state's regulations and made community colleges tuition-free. Not all of these reforms were achieved without controversy and Raimondo's approval ratings were among the nation's lowest until the pandemic changed all that.

The governor created quite a

stir in late March when she had cops and National Guardsmen stop New York cars at her state border and order New Yorkers planning to stay a while to quarantine themselves for 14 days. Although this didn't sit well with New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, she wouldn't back down but did add visitors from all the other states to her quarantine list.

And in an interview with New York Times columnist Frank Bruni, she explained this was necessary "to honor her obligation to save as many Rhode Islanders as possible from death, illness and economic devastation."

"Raimondo...is blunt and contrarian," Bruni wrote. "That's what I've always liked about her."

Another columnist-champion of Raimondo, the thoughtful conservative George Will, thinks Biden should pick her for VP but probably won't because, "The Democratic left, with its addiction to indignation and its aversion to practical politics, might recoil from Raimondo because she understands the enormous financial sector of a nation now chin-deep in red ink."

But, adds Will, "A Biden-Raimondo ticket would achieve the left's primary goal, the removal of President Trump. And the resulting administration would restore adult supervision in Washington."

Indeed.

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

## Realtor® at Large

For landowners with woodlands, the CT Forest and Parks Association has partnered with UCONN, CTDEEP and the Great Mountain Forest to host a 3 day educational seminar called the Covert Project on how to manage a healthy forest. Each September, 30 people go through the intensive outdoor classroom instruction on how to make your woodlands both profitable and more supportive of wildlife. The participants are also connected to the various CT organizations and professionals who will support them as they return to their own woodlands to manage. For more information on this excellent program, please go to this link: [www.ctwoodlands.org/environmental-education/connecticut-coverts-cooperators](http://www.ctwoodlands.org/environmental-education/connecticut-coverts-cooperators)



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EDITORIAL

Decision on Lime Rock Park brings local rule to the fore again

The Connecticut Supreme Court decision issued on Friday, May 22, on the regulation of Lime Rock Park's racing schedule is the culmination of years of divisive and often highly contentious argument over the way oversight of the track should be accomplished. (See stories by Patrick Sullivan May 28 and this week, and see the full decision at [www.tricornernews.com](http://www.tricornernews.com).) All the years of litigation and discussion have brought the topic back to where it began: at the feet of the Salisbury Planning and Zoning Commission.

Now it's time for all interested parties to come back to the table and come to a workable agreement on the way that Lime Rock Park can run its business. Track Owner Skip Barber has been a considerate neighbor over many years, and deserves to be able to have a viable operation to pass on to the next generation. There are some who would prefer to have no racing on that site, but they may not prefer to see many locally owned businesses that benefit from the support of visitors to the track close down.

It will now be up to the Salisbury Planning and Zoning Commission to make decisions according to evidence presented to its members going forward. This newspaper will continue to cover all sides of this issue as that happens, as it has over many years, so our readers can be clearly and fully informed.

Time for national change

"We're sick of it. The cops are out of control," protester Olga Hall said in Washington, D.C. "They're wild. There's just been too many dead boys."

— Associated Press, May 31, 2020, article by Tim Sullivan and Stephen Groves

Thank God and Big Tech for smartphones that take video and audio of high quality. While society may not always like or deal well with the results of ubiquitous technology, it's very clear that visual records of police misconduct in the United States have made a big difference in how some of law enforcement's violent interaction with the public has been seen and understood in recent years. Profound thanks also go to the courageous people who take videos at scenes of police brutality, because they know firsthand how at-risk they are themselves.

It's surely true that not all those in law enforcement condone such behavior as was seen in Minneapolis during the arrest of George Floyd on May 25. It may even be that most don't; but if that is so, those police officers need to make their voices heard now.

It's time for real social change in this country; actually, it's long overdue. All who agree with that need to become activist, like Olga Hall quoted above by the AP, and to find ways in their own lives to create a path to that change. They also need to find leadership that responds to the inequality in our nation with solutions and an obsession for justice. They need to vote for such leaders and to work to encourage others to vote for them as well.

Grateful for court decision

The Connecticut Supreme Court made the right decision in upholding the Salisbury Planning and Zoning Commission's right to regulate Sunday auto racing at Lime Rock Park. In the process, the court has preserved the future of Sunday chamber music concerts at Music Mountain in Falls Village. For that we are grateful.

Music Mountain is a Northwest Connecticut institution with a history that predates Lime Rock Park. Founded in 1930, Music Mountain has held weekend concerts in Gordon Hall, famed for its acoustics, for 90 consecutive summers — until this year, when the coronavirus pandemic forced us to cancel our season — making it the longest continuously running venue of its kind. (A series of weekly virtual programs, beginning Sunday, June 7 at 3 p.m., is in the works.)

The possibility of Sunday racing at Lime Rock may well have ended Music Mountain's chamber concerts and jeopardized our existence. Noise rising up from the racetrack, less than five miles away, would have disrupted listeners' experience.

Music Mountain is grateful to the LRCC and to the attorneys Timothy Hollister, Joette Katz, Andrea Gomes, Pat Naples; paralegal Beth Caron; and assistant to Mr. Hollister, Erin Fitzgerald, who successfully argued this final appeal. The LRCC worked tirelessly to advocate for the best interests of neighbors of the park, residents of Falls Village, Lime Rock, Lakeville and Salisbury, whose activities and well

being would be compromised. We thank our own patrons who came through with support for LRCC to help back the litigation.

Music Mountain has long had an excellent relationship with Skip Barber and Lime Rock Park, and we look forward to putting this litigation behind us and moving forward together as important summer tourism destinations in the Northwest Corner, each with its own unique and indelible history.

**David M. Conte**  
President, Board of Directors,  
Music Mountain  
Falls Village

More information on LJ Co. loan needed

Your May 6 editorial states that The Lakeville Journal was approved for government stimulus funds through the Paycheck Protection Program.

You noted that this transaction might help the paper achieve stability, depending on whether the funds become a loan or a grant, so apparently it was a sizeable amount of money, although you did not state the amount.

Since these are taxpayer funds being doled out, and since the public is now doing so much to support the paper's very existence, the amount of the funding should be stated and explained.

Indeed, some local businesses must wonder how the Journal even qualified for funds since the paper has been running deficits for decades and only survived last year because of a last ditch effort to raise public donations of over \$100,000. The



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

The flight home

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A tribute to a meaningful tradition

It is Memorial Day weekend in Salisbury, and there is no parade, but flags still line the streets. This year they hold a double meaning — they honor fallen soldiers and COVID patients and essential workers alike.

Other years, the parade begins by the library, where school marching bands assemble and the noisy energy of anticipation flows into the crowds gathered on Main Street. Dogs are out, wearing bandanas. Children squat at the front of the crowds, ready to sprint for candy tossed during the parade. Scouts and hockey teams, firefighters and veterans make their way through town with crowds cheering. It is a march of recognition, wherein Brownie Scouts share airtime with Vietnam vets.

When the uniformed veterans march by in unison, I am transported. It's almost like a scene from a movie in small town America. This reality is so distant from my daily life in New York City that it feels we must have gone back in time. The eldest veterans sit in fancy cars and wave. I imagine that they too feel distant as they drive by and

Thanks to ambulance squad

I want to give a shout out of thanks to our all volunteer ambulance squad, with Jamie Casey as its captain.

When it's pandemic time

It's an excuse to write a rhyme Or a reason for golf to play If ones brains are made of clay People dying by the hordes One person playing like a lord

Our country desperately needs a change

For we live in times so strange November can't come fast enough

We are made of stronger stuff So go out and vote So we can demote And live our lives in peace And wait for the arrival of the police

**Michael Kahler**  
Lakeville

kids and dogs and vacationing families like mine clap and bark and run for candy. Who is this day for?

We walk through town to the cemetery, where a smell of thyme wafts up as sandaled feet make their way across the field. A line of veterans stands at attention and we all listen to a sermon. Each year I hear Psalm 23:4: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for you are with me... I am used to hearing these words in synagogue, my ritual space of contemplation, and it shocks me to hear them spoken in Salisbury, Connecticut, in a sea of flags. It shocks me how these words may hit both veterans and myself on a deep personal level — we who have lived such divergent lives.

The names of local residents killed in combat are read out, a drum roll played with each name. We hear taps, first from the trumpet player before us, and then as an echo in the distance, like a response from those lost or deceased. Despite the trappings of candy and dress-up on the surface of the day, these rituals enacted every year cut through to a real sense of community and

Living in the Northwest Corner is wonderful — its scenery, the camaraderie, knowing your neighbors. But, for our small towns, we only have volunteers who respond to emergencies. We depend on them. During these trying times, we all should remember that they are always there for us. They go to their regular jobs, have families and other commitments. Yet, they still do their duties at all hours of the day and night to respond when an ambulance call beckons.

Right now, they cannot hold fundraisers nor their regular Pancake Breakfasts. The Sharon Ambulance Squad should get our help and gratitude. They desperately need a new ambulance. I hope that residents of Sharon will remember them and give them a thanks and if you can, send a donation — large or small.

**Marlene Woodman**  
Sharon

**Deadline for letters is Monday at 10 a.m.**

place here. I recognize the fact of great sacrifice.

This year on Memorial Day, I walk the parade route, retracing the steps I take each year. Only one other family does the same, their children in red, white and blue. I gesture hello as we make our way to the cemetery, in two distinctly separate units. I walk past the place I usually stand, down the path that winds through the cemetery, noting names and dates, flowers planted and photographs laid out. It still smells like thyme as I tread lightly across the grass and make my way out, from empty cemetery to empty street.

**Rosie Rudavsky**  
Salisbury

Best plant sale ever

On behalf of the Board of Directors and all the loyal patrons of the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village, I want to express our heartfelt appreciation for the tremendous support that our recent Homegrown Plant Sale (Plant a Victory Garden) enjoyed in the wider Northwest Corner neighborhood. We had a far greater response this year to this annual event than we have ever enjoyed in the past, thanks to all the gardeners and wannabe-gardeners who came out in force to show their appreciation.

We are also immeasurably grateful to the generous donors who shared their plant wealth that made the sale possible, and to the many steadfast volunteers and the staff members who made it all happen, while keeping everyone safe. The receipts from the plant sale will keep the library operational during this challenging time.

The Hunt Library is indeed fortunate to be at the heart of such a vibrant and supportive community as Falls Village.

Thank you to all!  
**Barbara Deinhardt**  
President,  
Board of Directors  
David M.Hunt Library  
Falls Village

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Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, fostering democracy and an atmosphere of open communication.

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TURNING BACK

THE PAGES

NORMA GALAISE

**100 years ago — June 1920**  
LAKEVILLE — Mr. and Mrs. Lee Dufour motored to Mt. Washington last Thursday.

LAKEVILLE — John K. Garrity has given up his position at A.H. Heaton and Co.'s store and will conduct the Garrity farm on Norton Hill.

William Rowe, age 22, of Ore Hill, died Tuesday afternoon in the Sharon Hospital from injuries received while following his duties as miner at Ore Hill. While at his work Saturday morning a large chunk of ore fell, striking him upon the head.

**50 years ago — June 1970**  
School budget problems got you up-tight? Where to put the town dump? Forget your worries for one beautiful night of dancing to Bob Crosby's big band on June 13. His 12-piece orchestra will occupy the whole stage of the Sharon Center School gymnasium for SCAF's "Rosy Future Ball."

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Donahue on Route 112 in Lime Rock was badly gutted by fire early Saturday evening. Lakeville and Falls Village firemen labored strenuously before they were able to subdue the flames. In spite of their efforts, the fire broke out again upstairs at 1:30 in the morning and the Lakeville company returned then to renew their efforts. Cause of the fire is under investigation.

There was no doubt that the many Salisbury citizens who crowded Town Hall for the Dump discussion Friday evening favored an incinerator over a sanitary landfill disposal area. The Hall was packed with people sitting on the window sills, filling every seat in the large auditorium and overflowing into two additional rooms which had been connected with the PA system.

**25 years ago — June 1995**  
LAKEVILLE — The drizzling rain didn't seem to bother Donna Finn or her 77 young musicians as she and the Salisbury Central School band stepped out briskly in Salisbury's annual Memorial Day parade. Nor did the fact that she had had to integrate 23 more children into the band this year seem to bother this unflappable music teacher.

The tornado that swept through Great Barrington Monday night left behind destroyed buildings, smashed cars, the injured and the dead. But well-laid emergency plans allowed an efficient response from the regional community as pre-planned and rehearsed mutual aid from three states went into action.

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

*More letters previous page.*

# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Events

June 4-10, 2020

POETRY: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

## Poets Find Words for What We Are Feeling Now

Sometimes you ask a question that seems simple enough and you are surprised by a response that comes at you big and powerful like a tsunami wave.

That's more or less what happened when Millerton, N.Y., resident Alice Quinn checked in with the many poets in her contacts list and asked them what they're doing during the pandemic. The response was, Quinn said, overwhelming.

She quickly realized that America's poets had something to say that American poetry fans would like to hear. She reached out to her contacts at the prestigious Knopf publishing house (where she was an editor for a decade, before going to The New Yorker and then the Poetry Society of America) and they immediately said yes.

In what must be one of the fastest turnarounds in publishing history, "Together in a Sudden Strangeness: America's Poets Respond to the Pandemic" was put together in 40 days, like the Biblical flood, beginning March 27. An electronic version will be available on June 9, a hardcover print

edition will be released in November.

The poems are collected from all over the United States, with work from poets that even prose fans will recognize, including Susan Minot and former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins.

Susan Kinsolving, who is poet in residence at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Conn., is featured in the book. She will be one of five poets to take part in a special Zoom reading, sponsored by the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, Conn.

The reading will be held on Tuesday, June 16, from 7 to 8 p.m. Quinn will host Kinsolving, Collins (who was poet laureate from 2001-03), Major Jackson, Didi Jackson and Fanny Howe.

Hotchkiss Library Executive Director Gretchen Hachmeister said this one-time-only event is free, but donations are encouraged to benefit both Sharon Hospital's fund for healthcare workers and the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, which is the town's own public library.

Online attendance space is limited to 100; for more information, go to the library website at [www.hotchkisslibrary.org](http://www.hotchkisslibrary.org).

### My Heart Cannot Accept It All

By Susan Kinsolving

Forgive yourself for thinking small  
for cooking soups, ignoring blight.  
The mind cannot contain it all

despite intent and wherewithal;  
it's little stuff that brings delight:  
a book, a drink. Keep thinking small.

A bubble bath? An odd phone call?  
(Resisting all those gigabytes!)  
Your mind will not embrace it all.

Quarantine is one long haul  
as days grow long, so do the nights.  
Forgive yourself for thinking small:

popcorn, TV, more alcohol?  
There's no need to be contrite.  
My mind cannot believe it all,

this vast and shocking viral sprawl,  
infections with no end in sight.  
Forgive me please. I'm thinking small.

My heart cannot accept it all.

From "Together in a Sudden Strangeness: America's Poets Respond to the Pandemic," edited by Alice Quinn, Knopf, 2020

SINATRA: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

## Frank's Life — You Can't Deny It ...

Tom Santopietro returns to Kent (in a virtual fashion) for a Zoom talk hosted by the Kent Memorial Library in Kent, Conn., on Thursday, June 4, at 7 p.m. about Frank Sinatra's music and movies.

A journalist, Santopietro has also spent much of his life managing Broadway shows. He is uniquely able to write with an insider's insights on theater, as he has done in his books on Barbara Cook, Doris Day, "The Sound of Music" and, most recently, choreography, in

his book "Dancing Man: A Broadway Choreographer's Journey," written with and about Bob Avian (a Kent resident and close friend of Santopietro).

Frank Sinatra is a particular favorite of Santopietro's, whose third book was "Sinatra in Hollywood." In his Zoom talk, he said in an email interview last week, "I'm going to talk about Frank as both singer and actor — and about his personal life.

"I'm not going to play recordings because Zoom is visual, but I am going to show two different film clips, from 'Pal Joey' and 'From Here to Eternity.'"

The presentation (which was organized by Santopietro's childhood friend Lucy Pierpont, who does marketing and events for the Kent Memorial Library) should be about 35 or 40 minutes long, and then Santopietro will answer questions and people can share their own



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

THEATER:  
CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

## The Show Goes On, at Sharon Playhouse

As COVID-19 concerns continue, Sharon Playhouse in Sharon, Conn., has decided to move its 2020 season forward by one year, to 2021.

The original Playhouse plan (before the coronavirus) had been to open the 2020 season with "Singin' in the Rain" on June 12 and continue with "Brigadoon" (July 10), "Mamma Mia" (July 31), "Million Dollar Quartet" (Aug. 21) and Divas Go Hollywood (to end the season with a big bang of music and fun).

Managing Director Robert Levinstein and Artistic Director Alan M-L Wager had announced in April that they would delay this summer's Playhouse season, and open with "Mamma Mia," based on the songs of the Swedish pop group ABBA, on Aug. 7.

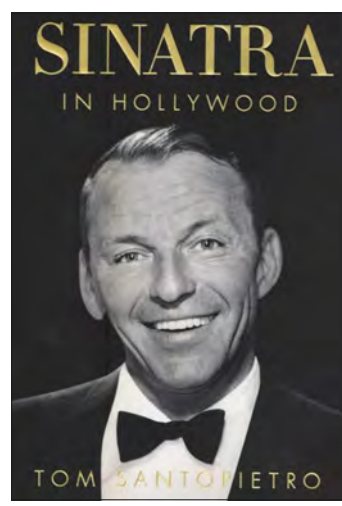
Last week, Levinstein and Wager sent out a video by email saying, "We had hoped to still offer 'Mamma Mia,' 'Million Dollar Quartet' and 'Divas Go Hollywood' this year, but with all that's going on, we thought it safer and more practical to move everything to next year.

"However, this does NOT mean that the Sharon Playhouse will be dark this summer. We are still planning on opening our Patio Bar in July, to offer the community a place to come and socialize with social distancing, food trucks and entertainment.

"We will be literally 'thinking outside of the Bok' and turning our parking lot into a drive-in theater with live entertainment — specifically, concerts and possibly a laser show; we're still working out the possibilities.

"The Bok Gallery space itself is also an option for live entertainment with social distancing procedures."

To keep up to date as Playhouse plans come together, subscribe to the Sharon Playhouse on Facebook or Instagram, and go to the theater's website at [www.sharonplayhouse.org](http://www.sharonplayhouse.org) for more information, to purchase tickets and/or make a donation.



Tom Santopietro will talk about Frank Sinatra's life and career as both singer and actor, on June 4.

stories about how their lives intersected with Ol' Blue Eyes.

To sign up for the Zoom, go to the library website at [www.kentmemoriallibrary.org](http://www.kentmemoriallibrary.org), click on "events and exhibits" at the top of the home page, then find June 4 on the calendar and click on "A Fun Talk About the Great Frank Sinatra."

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