



# The Lakeville Journal

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

## Dept. of Agriculture allows for development of second protected farm in Sharon

By Taylor Plett

SHARON — Construction is underway on two protected agricultural properties after the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DOA) approved the owners' plans to build multimillion-dollar homes in August of last year.

The properties were placed under farmland preservation restrictions in the mid-1980s, making them two of the earliest protected properties of their kind in the country. These

restrictions work by placing agricultural land under easement when landowners sell their development rights to the state, barring subdivision and requiring that the land remain available for farming.

The DOA, which is the sole authority on the interpretation of the easements, found homes, garages, and pool houses to be permissible according to the language of the original deeds — an interpretation that has spurred pushback from local residents and lawmakers.

"The development is absolutely contrary to the heart and the spirit of what the easements were put in place for," said State Senator Stephen Harding (R-30). That intention, in Harding's view, was "protecting this land as agriculture and open space."

One of the properties, known as Paley Farm, is at the center of a Superior Court Case brought by Sharon Land Trust (SLT) and Carol Flaton when they filed an injunction

See FARMS, Page A10

## Expiration of \$22.5 million Certificate of Need ends Geer's quest for new nursing facility

By Debra A. Aleksinas

NORTH CANAAN — A five-year effort by Geer Village Senior Community to either build a new, state-of-the-art nursing home or renovate its existing, aging facility has ended with the expiration of its \$22.5 million Certificate of Need, issued in 2018 by the state Department of Social Services.

Although the original certificate was valid through July 2023, Geer was granted a five-month extension to the end of 2023 to either re-apply as is or with modifications.

Christine Stuart, Department of Social Services deputy director of communications, confirmed last week there are currently "no CONs pending for Geer. The one they had pending expired in 2023 and they have not resubmitted."

Shaun Powell, Geer's CEO/CFO, said devastating fallout from the global pandemic, including rising construction costs, supply chain issues and a decline in consumer demand which "decimated the long-term care industry" contributed to Geer's decision to scuttle both the original plan to construct a new

nursing home on the campus or to renovate its aging 120-bed facility.

The original, two-phase project was being supported through a \$2.2 million grant from the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to cover costs for design work and architectural plans.

Under the original proposal, the new 80,000 square foot nursing facility would have been situated on the southern 45 acre portion of the North Canaan campus.

Phase Two called for converting

See GEER, Page A10

## Costumed contestants conquer 48th annual Kent Pumpkin Run

By Lans Christensen

KENT — The sun was shining Sunday, Oct. 27, for the 48th annual Pumpkin Run.

Established in 1977, the costumed five-mile run has become a big draw in Kent with nearly 400 runners competing in this year's race.

Many runners sported Halloween costumes with colorful and imaginative stylings. Winners were announced for various costume categories.

A kids race preceded the adult

See PUMPKIN RUN, Page A10



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Youth runners in costumes compete in the Kent Pumpkin Run on Sunday, Oct. 27.



PHOTO PROVIDED

A fallen tree killed a motorist, injured another and took down power lines, causing two brush fires along Route 44 in Norfolk.

## Fatal car crash in Norfolk leads to roadside fire

By Patrick L. Sullivan

NORFOLK — A tree fell on a passing vehicle on Route 44 Friday, Oct. 25, at about 6:11 p.m., killing the driver and injuring a passenger.

Jon Barbagallo, public information officer for the Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department, interviewed Saturday morning, Oct. 26, said a pickup truck was traveling east on Route 44 near the Norfolk/North Canaan line when a very large tree on the north side of the highway fell, hitting the truck and crushing the cab, and taking out utility lines.

The downed electric power lines then sparked two brush fires.

Barbagallo said it took two hours to put out the fires.

"The flames were high and moving fast."

Traffic on the busy highway was detoured soon after the incident. The road was reopened Saturday, Oct. 26 around noon, but utility crews were still working.

Several nearby fire departments responded to the call. Canaan Fire Company's Brian Allyn reported a team effort to access a second location to fight the brush fire. He said Laurelbrook Natural Resources brought a load of gravel to fill a ditch, allowing water tankers to drive to the other side of the blaze and put out the fire.

## Salisbury Rotary Club celebrates 75th anniversary

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Rotary Club of Salisbury celebrated its 75th anniversary with a dinner at Noble Horizons Saturday, Oct. 26.

Randy Chapell provided background on Rotary International, which was founded in 1905 in Chicago by Paul Harris, an attorney, mining engineer Gustave Loehr, Silvester Schiele, a coal dealer, and Hiram E. Shorey, a tailor.

Before the speeches Chapell was

asked about what "rotary" refers to. He said the original four members rotated their meetings between their respective offices.

The mission of Rotary International: "We provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders."

Or as Chapell put it, the Rotary

See ROTARY CLUB, Page A10



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RE-ELECT STATE REPRESENTATIVE **Maria Horn**

# Sample ballot for 2024 election

## In The Journal this week

- REGIONAL .....A2
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- SPORTS .....A9
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- CALENDAR .....B4
- OUR TOWNS .....B5
- CLASSIFIEDS .....B5-6

### Online This Week

#### Trunk or Treat

Cornwall held its annual Halloween event at the Village Green. Video on Instagram @lakevillejournal

## 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.

### Driver dodges squirrel, hits pole

On Oct. 22, Jodian Thomas, 31, of Salisbury was driving a 2006 Honda Pilot EX on Wells Hill Road in Salisbury when he swerved to avoid a squirrel and lost control of the vehicle. The vehicle struck a utility pole and suffered disabling damage. Thomas was found to be at fault for the accident, and was issued an infraction for operating a motor vehicle without a license and operating an unregistered motor vehicle.

### Glare causes boulder strike

On the morning of Oct. 23, José Agustinperez, 43, of Millerton, was driving east on Route 44 near Interlaken Road in Salisbury when the vehicle struck a boulder on the right side of the road. Agustinperez stated that the sun's glare obscured the road, causing the vehicle to veer off to the shoulder and hit the boulder. Agustinperez did not suffer any injuries, and was not found at fault. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

### Leaves cause tree collision

At 8 p.m. on Oct. 23, Brayden Tranquillo, 18, of Warren was driving a Volkswagen Jetta GLS owned by Peter Tranquillo of Litchfield when he lost control of the vehicle after encountering a patch of leaves around a bend on Mohawk Mountain Road. The vehicle ran off the road, and struck a tree. No injuries were reported, and Tranquillo was issued a written warning for traveling too fast for the conditions.

### Disorderly conduct arrest

In the early afternoon of Oct. 26, troopers responded to a report of an active disturbance at 70 Doolittle Drive in Norfolk. Investigation yielded that Regina Link Lane, 62, of Norfolk had thrown an electrical cord at a victim and knocked a cellphone out of the victim's hand. Link Lane was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. She was released on a \$25,000 surety bond and was scheduled to appear at G.A. 18 in Torrington on Oct. 28.

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 johnc@lakevillejournal.com

State of Connecticut  
Official Ballot

Cornwall  
Connecticut

State Election  
November 5, 2024

Congressional District 5  
Senatorial District 30  
Assembly District 64

Sheet 1 of 1

VOTE ON THE QUESTION(S)

1. "Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit the General Assembly to allow each voter to vote by absentee ballot?"

YES     NO

OFFICE	1	2	3	4	5	6
PARTY	PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS FOR VOTE FOR ONE	UNITED STATES SENATOR VOTE FOR ONE	REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS VOTE FOR ONE	STATE SENATOR VOTE FOR ONE	STATE REPRESENTATIVE VOTE FOR ONE	REGISTRAR OF VOTERS VOTE FOR ONE
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1A HARRIS AND WALZ	<input type="radio"/> 2A CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY	<input type="radio"/> 3A JAHANA HAYES	<input type="radio"/> 4A JUSTIN POTTER	<input type="radio"/> 5A MARIA HORN	<input type="radio"/> 6A JAYNE RIDGWAY
REPUBLICAN PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1B TRUMP AND VANCE	<input type="radio"/> 2B MATTHEW M. COREY	<input type="radio"/> 3B GEORGE LOGAN	<input type="radio"/> 4B STEPHEN G. HARDING	<input type="radio"/> 5B BARBARA L. BREOR	<input type="radio"/> 6B BRITTANY MOSIMANN
WORKING FAMILIES PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1C	<input type="radio"/> 2C CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY	<input type="radio"/> 3C JAHANA HAYES	<input type="radio"/> 4C	<input type="radio"/> 5C MARIA HORN	<input type="radio"/> 6C
INDEPENDENT PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1D	<input type="radio"/> 2D	<input type="radio"/> 3D	<input type="radio"/> 4D STEPHEN G. HARDING	<input type="radio"/> 5D MARIA HORN	<input type="radio"/> 6D
GREEN PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1E STEIN AND WARE	<input type="radio"/> 2E JUSTIN C. PAGLINO	<input type="radio"/> 3E	<input type="radio"/> 4E	<input type="radio"/> 5E	<input type="radio"/> 6E
LIBERTARIAN PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1F OLIVER AND TER MAAT	<input type="radio"/> 2F	<input type="radio"/> 3F	<input type="radio"/> 4F	<input type="radio"/> 5F	<input type="radio"/> 6F
CHEAPER GAS GROCERIES PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1G	<input type="radio"/> 2G ROBERT FINLEY HYDE	<input type="radio"/> 3G	<input type="radio"/> 4G	<input type="radio"/> 5G	<input type="radio"/> 6G
PETITIONING CANDIDATE	<input type="radio"/> 1H KENNEDY, JR. AND SHANAHAN	<input type="radio"/> 2H	<input type="radio"/> 3H	<input type="radio"/> 4H	<input type="radio"/> 5H	<input type="radio"/> 6H
WRITE-IN VOTES	<input type="radio"/> 1I	<input type="radio"/> 2I	<input type="radio"/> 3I	<input type="radio"/> 4I	<input type="radio"/> 5I	<input type="radio"/> 6I

Be sure to read the instructions on the reverse side of this ballot.

## Correction

The Salisbury real estate story from Oct. 24 was referring to median sale prices, not average sale price.

Cornwall's 2024 ballot. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5. A voter registration session will be held statewide Monday, Nov. 4 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at town halls.

# Emergency burn ban in place

By Alec Linden

As of Oct. 26, an emergency burn ban is in effect for all Connecticut state parks, forests, and wildlife management areas, as announced by Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection (DEEP) Commissioner Katherine Dykes.

The ban prohibits the use of any outdoor fire, including grills, campfires, and firepits. Governor Ned Lamont declared a state of emergency on Oct. 25, urging "all Connecticut residents to avoid any type of outdoor burning as the current conditions pose a high risk of fire danger."

Litchfield County remains at an "extreme" fire danger level, alongside Hartford, Tolland and Fairfield counties. All other counties in the state are classified as having "very high" fire danger.

In a statement on Oct. 24, Kent Fire Marshall Timothy Limbos requested that residents refrain from having campfires during Halloween festivities. "In this extremely dry climate a simple spark can easily ignite a fire," it read. The statement also notified residents that leaf burning is not allowed, even with a valid open burn permit.

The National Weather Service has raised a red flag warning for all of Connecticut and much of the Northeast. Red flag warnings are issued to alert fire officials that conditions are highly favorable for wildfire ignition and rapid growth, combining dry fuels, such as parched vegeta-

## Falls Village forest fire under control, being monitored

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — A fire has been active on a wooded, mountainous area off Cobble Road since Monday, Oct. 21.

Michelle Hansen, who coordinates emergency services and responses for the town, said Monday morning, Oct. 28, that smoke from the fire was noticed in an area near the junction of Route 63 and Cobble Road, on the north side of the latter on Oct. 21.

The Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department responded initially, with other area departments and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) joining in.

As of Monday, Oct. 28, the fire is listed as controlled and it is being monitored.

The roughly three to four acre area of the fire is owned by Craig Boothroyd. It is undeveloped. No injuries have been reported. No cause of the fire has been determined.

tion, low humidity, and high winds.

Unusually low rainfall and warm temperatures during the autumn season have dried out much of the state, with the U.S. Drought Monitor classifying a small region in the Northwest Corner as experiencing moderate drought conditions, and an additional 2/3 of the state as "abnormally dry," according to DEEP.

Fires have already sprung up across Connecticut, with the Hawthorne Fire in Berlin spreading to between 100 and 110 acres as of Oct. 25. Veteran firefighter Robert E. Sharkevich Sr. was killed fighting the Hawthorne fire when his UTV rolled on steep terrain, injuring the other three firefighters in-

side. Two other firefighters have been injured in slip and fall incidents fighting smaller fires elsewhere in the state.

The coming week's weather brings little hope for moisture, with temperatures climbing to potentially record setting heights later in the week alongside breezy conditions and low humidity.

The National Weather Service called for a 20% chance of showers Oct. 29, with a slightly better chance for a shower on Oct. 31.

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- AARP

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## Our Towns

# North Canaan brings aid to storm-torn south

By Alec Linden

NORTH CANAAN — On Sunday afternoon, Oct. 20, First Selectman Brian Ohler, North Canaan resident Ron Carpenter and Carpenter's dog Remi set off from Town Hall in a truck and trailer packed with several thousand pounds of supplies destined for the mountains of western North Carolina to aid in the relief effort for Hurricane Helene.

The contents of the truck and trailer were donated by "over 500 individuals, families and businesses" from the Northwest Corner over the course of a relief drive on Sunday at Town Hall, another at North Canaan's Pumpkin Fest on Saturday, and earlier contributions. The truck and trailer were provided by Richie and Chris Crane.

Supplies of all types made the journey south, comprised of "the basic necessities to live," in Ohler's words. Cold weather clothing and equipment were especially vital with winter approaching.

"It was really heartwarm-

ing to see such support," Ohler said. This generosity "is something that the Northwest Corner has always been known for," he added. "Whether it's North Canaan or North Carolina, we're always here to help."

Ohler, a veteran of war, first responder and emergency management professional, said he knew where the supplies needed to go to avoid being trapped in a large collection point. The team's goal was to get supplies directly into the hands of civilians.

With washed out bridges and roads leaving people no way to get to larger relief distribution points, Ohler said getting supplies straight to residents was paramount.

Ohler had been deployed with the Army to New Orleans to aid in the relief effort for Hurricane Katrina, but he said the destruction in North Carolina was "just so much more obvious." The devastation was "simply unfathomable," he said in a statement on the Town of North Canaan Facebook page.

Despite the monumental



Supplies for the south was collected at North Canaan Town Hall. More than 500 individuals and businesses contributed to the cause.



A Dollar General in North Carolina acts as a staging ground for rescue vehicles.

task of rebuilding, Ohler said residents in these ravaged towns would take the time to stop what they were doing and extend their thanks. "The towns that we were in will always be connected to the Northwest Corner of Connecticut," he said, adding that he hopes to continue relations and relief efforts in the future.

In North Carolina alone, Hurricane Helene has likely caused at least \$53 billion in damages and recovery needs and claimed 96 lives at the latest count, according to a report by Al Jazeera.



Left, the trailer was filled with supplies that had been donated by the people of the Northwest Corner. Above, it was delivered to residents of North Carolina.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

The home at 55 Beebe Hill Road on the outskirts of Falls Village sold at the end of September for \$749,000. Built in 1935 the home is surrounded by 4.25 acres of meadow and fruit trees.

## Falls Village late summer real estate transactions

By Christina Bates

FALLS VILLAGE — By the end of summer only four sales were recorded in Canaan/Falls Village in August and September — half the number of the previous two months. Falls Village is a small market with only 15 sales per year recently — down significantly from the two plus homes a month during 2021. Although median home prices reached a high of \$721,000 in December 2023, the current 12-month median is \$675,000 and headed upward. All four property transfers recorded in August and September were sold by non-Canaan residents.

As of Oct. 23 there were six residential properties for sale all listed above \$600,000, plus four parcels of land, and the Falls Village post office with one furnished seasonal rental.

### Transactions

166 Rod Road — 3 bedroom/3 bath home sold by Margaret Rice to Thomas G. Watson for \$860,000.

77 Belden St. — 4 bedroom/3 bath home on 3.17 acres sold by Joel Harper Nash to Elizabeth Inman Mosen on Aug. 6 for \$1,495,000.

161 Belden St. — 2 bedroom/2 bath ranch on 44.21 acres with a riding arena, stable and barns sold by Stephanie Chego Janis to Robert Jeremy Noiseux Jr. in a private sale recorded on Aug. 7 for \$1.26 million.

55 Beebe Hill Road — 3 bedroom/1.5 bath sold by Thomas Phillip Watkins to Barbara Lobdell on Sept. 30 for \$749,000.

\* Town of Canaan real estate transfers recorded as sold between Aug. 1, 2024, and Sept. 30, 2024, provided by the Canaan Town Clerk. Transfers without consid-

eration are not included. Current market listings from Smart MLS. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.

## Forum speaker critiques media role in 2024 presidential campaign

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — David D. Kirkpatrick, a staff writer for The New Yorker and a former investigative reporter for the New York Times, was critical of how the media have covered the 2024 presidential election at a Salisbury Forum talk Friday, Oct. 25 at Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

He said the press has produced "voluminous explorations" of what a second presidency of Republican Donald J. Trump would be like.

But this coverage "turned out to be a distraction."

"What was the biggest surprise in this campaign?" he asked the audience.

Answer: The June 27 debate between then-candidate and incumbent President Joe Biden (D) and Trump.

The debate was a disaster for Biden, who appeared confused. After an outcry from his own party, on July 21 Biden announced he was withdrawing from the race. Vice-President Kamala Harris was subsequently chosen to replace Biden at the top of the Democratic ticket.

"There is no way to argue this was not an enormous lapse" on the part of the me-

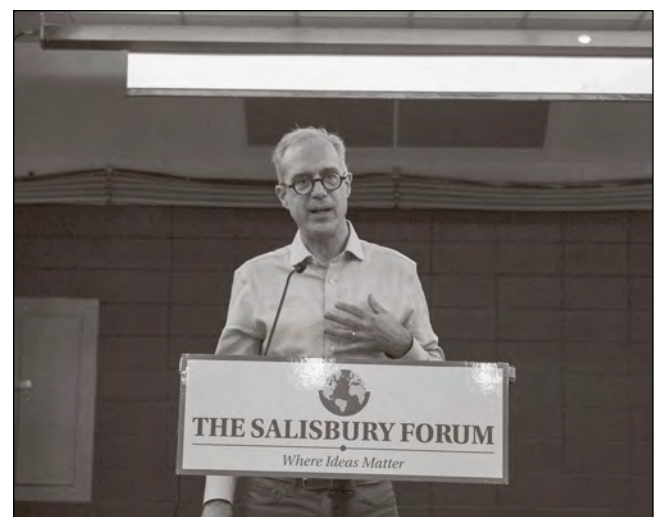


PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

David D. Kirkpatrick spoke at HVRHS Oct. 25.

dia, Kirkpatrick said.

He said the New York Times' Peter Baker was writing about Biden's decline as early as July 2022.

"He took a lot of static" for his reporting.

In February 2024, Special Counsel Robert Hur, who was investigating the case of Biden's handling of classified documents, closed his investigation and declined to prosecute the President, saying "Biden would likely present himself to a jury ... as a sympathetic, well-meaning, elderly man with a poor memory."

Kirkpatrick said at this

point the story "was out in public" and could not be ignored.

But he questioned why The Times then ran a piece labeled "analysis" that examined why the age question was hurting Biden more than Trump.

"They made it a sociological story."

If Trump wins a second term, the press will be blamed for not reporting on Biden's decline earlier, Kirkpatrick predicted.

"Wouldn't Harris be better off if she'd had more time? Was Harris the best candidate?"

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# Threats of school violence on the rise in Connecticut

By Jennifer Almquist

More than 50 Connecticut school districts have been affected by “death threats” made on social media since the beginning of the school year. Public schools were evacuated and locked down in Winchester, Bristol, Bridgeport, Ansonia, Westport, Meriden, Norwalk, Waterbury, Fairfield, Uniondale, West Babylon, and Torrington as school officials erred on the side of caution. As of Oct. 25, 20 juveniles have been arrested.

Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker of the Connecticut Department of Education sent out a letter TKdate addressed to parents and guardians. The letter, also signed by Governor Ned Lamont (D) and Commissioner Ronnell Higgins of Emergency Services and Public Protection, serves to address parents’ fears and asks them to support safe schools.

“Plans focus on prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery. Safety and security begin at home. We encourage parents and caregivers to help us with this.”

In a recent discussion concerning the “dangers of technology,” Governor Lamont highlighted “Kids Online Safety Act” (KOSA) introduced by U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) (which passed the Senate on July 30, 2024), and Blumenthal was asked about statewide online school threats.

KOSA, according to Blumenthal, “Creates a duty for online platforms to prevent and mitigate specific dangers to minors.”

“Social media is an accelerant, like in a fire,” said Blumenthal. “It can spread and deepen harmful comments, threats and bullying,” Blumenthal continued, “I think effective law enforcement, as we’ve seen in Connecticut, as well as disapproval from contemporaries, peers and fellow students, can have an enormous effect.”



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Winchester Chief of Police Christopher Ciuci with Police Sergeant Peter DeLouis (left), and Officer Scott Twombly (right).

“Police are being very careful to see which is a serious threat and which is maybe some lark. Or somebody thinking it’s a mischievous prank,” said Lamont. Blumenthal added, “This is no joke.”

According to The Children’s Defense Fund: “Gun violence remains the number one cause of death for children ages one to 19, with the gun death rate for children at almost five in every 100,000 in 2020. Babies born the year of the watershed Columbine massacre are now 24 years old. No youth today knows a world without the threat of sudden deadly gun violence.”

The Lakeville Journal interviewed Winchester Chief of Police Christopher Ciuci following recent threats and school closings affected in Winsted.

**Almquist:** Chief Ciuci, when did you begin working with the Winchester Police Department?

**Ciuci:** I’ve been in Winsted for a year and a half, after just shy of 29 years in Berlin. I grew up in Fairfield County and now I’m learning Litch-

field County.

**JA:** Parents on social media said they were afraid to take their kids to Pearson School in Winsted (elementary school serving 300 children grades 3 to 6) recently. There was talk of a boy threatening with a gun on their school bus. There seemed to be a lot of confusion — parents concerned about what’s real and what isn’t. There was also a lot of criticism of the response from various authorities, including school administrators and police. After school shootings like the recent one in Georgia, there is usually an uptick in copycats on social media, but this seemed different. The threats were more prevalent — more national and widespread. Do these threats seem different to you?

**CC:** There was a contagious effect throughout Connecticut. What exacerbated that really was the social media. Once it got out there, it just kind of spiraled. It is hard dealing with all these different social media platforms. Getting out the proper message — there is a lot of

misinformation. We have dealt with things like this in the past, so there are plans in place. We have a good relationship with the schools, and Emergency Management in Winsted. When you’re talking about school safety, it’s really that partnership between all of us — the parents, the community, the town, the Police department, the Fire department, and Emergency and Emergency Management — everybody. There are plans in place at the school required by state law — school safety plans, lockdown drills.

**JA:** Was the school’s response adequate?

**CC:** I thought the principal over at Pearson School did a good job. They were dealing with a child that is only 9 years old. In Connecticut you can’t even charge a child under 10 with a crime. To be honest with you, we don’t even want to get involved with a child so young. With juveniles, our first default mechanism is to divert from the criminal justice system. Especially with a child that age. We have diversion

programs; a juvenile review board here, but in this situation, nothing really fit that criterion, because of the age of the child. The school had procedures in place. They met with their social workers, and threat assessment team. They did what they were supposed to do and made an assessment.

**JA:** Why were parents so critical of the response?

**CC:** I know where things got carried away because instead of the parents dealing directly with the school, or dealing directly with us, they just started putting stuff out on social media. Then that triggers and creates alarms, and that is what we want to try to avoid. After any incident like this it’s important to sit down, look at how it was handled, and determine what can we do better next time.

**JA:** It was reported that recently in Ansonia, a 13-year-old girl confessed that she made a threatening school post. She was charged with first-degree threatening and second-degree breach of the peace. In Florida, Sheriff Mike Chitwood perp walked

an eleven-year-old suspect into custody, and a video of the child being arrested was shown to the public. The authorities said they wanted to publicly shame the parents and their child. How do you respond to that approach?

**CC:** It is hard to determine a lot of these threats that are circulating now, because the technology allows them to know they’re anonymous. We don’t know where they’re coming in. They are disguising the numbers, disguising emails, disguising the social media posts. So, it’s difficult to track that back to the source and pursue it criminally. Make no mistake, if we can identify them, we really have a zero-tolerance policy at this department when it comes to threats. If a child was of age to be criminally charged, we would still follow through with that referral process, but we would divert them to the juvenile review board. But if there was a crime committed by someone of age, the message we want to send the child is that we’re going to pursue criminal charges.

**JA:** How do you determine a real threat?

**CC:** It is a multi-layered problem when the threat is real — you have the actual perpetrator, you have an actual crime that’s going to be committed. I think probably the hardest thing is determining whether a threat is real or not. We’re a small department without enough staffing. When you talk about school safety it takes a town-wide commitment. Not just supporting the people involved in public safety, but financially supporting them as well. Providing public safety is not cheap. But it’s in between handling calls for service such as dealing with school incidents which pulls everybody away from everything else.

The Children’s Defense Fund states: “Our nation’s young people deserve the chance to have a childhood free from violence and a country with leaders who ensure that they are safe in their schools, neighborhoods, and communities.”

## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

A meeting of the plot owners of the Amenia Island Cemetery Association will be held on Tuesday, November 19th at 5:00 p.m. at the Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22 Amenia, NY for the purpose of electing trustees and for such other matters that may properly come before the meeting.

The annual meeting of the trustees will immediately follow the meeting of the plot owners.

10-31-24  
11-07-24  
11-14-24

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### SALISBURY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

The Salisbury Historic District Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 9:05am to act on an Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the Installation of a Roof and Installation of a Generator at 84 Main Street, Salisbury, CT, 06068. This Public Hearing will be a Hybrid Meeting with Live Internet Video Stream and Telephone and in person at Town Hall. The Meeting Link will be posted on the Town of Salisbury website: [www.salisburyct.us/agendas/](http://www.salisburyct.us/agendas/).

The application is available for review by contacting the Salisbury Town Clerk’s office: [www.salisburyct.us](http://www.salisburyct.us). 10-31-24

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Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission  
Martin Whalen, Secretary  
10-24-24  
10-31-24

### NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING TOWN OF SALISBURY NOVEMBER 12, 2024 7:00 P.M.

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1. To act upon a proposed amendment to Ordinance No. 55, Section 4.5(a), to read as follows: “Any unsewered property hooking into an existing sewer will be charged a hook-up charge of \$5,000.”

2. To act upon a proposed conveyance for \$1.00 to Salisbury Housing Trust, Inc. (“SHT”) of a parcel of real estate on Undermountain Road, shown as “Town of Salisbury Vol. 30, Pg. 616 us. Paper copies may be reviewed Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM.

41 Salisbury, Connecticut Scale 1” = 20’ January 31, 2008 Total Area = 0.813+ Acres”, prepared by Lamb Kiefer Land Surveyors, LLC, Salisbury, Connecticut, a copy of which is available at the Office of the Town Clerk. The conveyance to SHT will include reservation of an easement in favor of the Town for maintenance and access to the western portion of the property. A copy of the proposed easement language is available at the Office of the Town Clerk.

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4. To act upon the proposed grant by the Town to James H. Cohan and Jane S. Cohan of an easement over an area lying contiguous to the easterly boundary of lands of James H. Cohan and Jane S. Cohan located at 331 Housatonic River Road for the purposes of maintaining, repairing and replacing a stone retaining wall, fill and plantings and

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Members of the public may attend the Special Town Meeting in person at Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Salisbury, Connecticut, or remotely. The Board of Selectmen will post a notice on the Town’s website (<https://www.salisburyct.us/>) not less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the Town Meeting providing instructions for the public on how to attend remotely and provide comment or otherwise participate in the meeting.

Dated at Salisbury, Connecticut this 28th day of October, 2024.

Curtis G. Rand

First Selectman  
Christian E. Williams  
Selectman  
Katherine Kiefer  
Selectman  
10-31-24  
11-07-24

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF JAMES F. PICTON Late of Salisbury (24-00408)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated October 15, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciary is:  
Mark Picton  
c/o Louise F Brown  
Ackerly Brown, LLP  
5 Academy Street  
P.O. Box 568  
Salisbury, CT 06068  
Megan M. Foley  
Clerk  
10-31-24

# Threats of school violence on the rise in Connecticut

By Jennifer Almquist

More than 50 Connecticut school districts have been affected by “death threats” made on social media since the beginning of the school year. Public schools were evacuated and locked down in Winchester, Bristol, Bridgeport, Ansonia, Westport, Meriden, Norwalk, Waterbury, Fairfield, Uniondale, West Babylon, and Torrington as school officials erred on the side of caution. As of Oct. 25, 20 juveniles have been arrested.

Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker of the Connecticut Department of Education sent out a letter on Oct. 22 addressed to parents and guardians. The letter, also signed by Governor Ned Lamont (D) and Commissioner Ronnell Higgins of Emergency Services and Public Protection, serves to address parents’ fears and asks them to support safe schools.

“Plans focus on prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery. Safety and security begin at home. We encourage parents and caregivers to help us with this.”

In a recent discussion concerning the “dangers of technology,” Governor Lamont highlighted “Kids Online Safety Act” (KOSA) introduced by U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) (which passed the Senate on July 30, 2024), and Blumenthal was asked about statewide online school threats.

KOSA, according to Blumenthal, “Creates a duty for online platforms to prevent and mitigate specific dangers to minors.”

“Social media is an accelerant, like in a fire,” said Blumenthal. “It can spread and deepen harmful comments, threats and bullying,” Blumenthal continued, “I think effective law enforcement, as we’ve seen in Connecticut, as well as disapproval from contemporaries, peers and fellow students, can have an enormous effect.”



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Winchester Chief of Police Christopher Ciuci with Police Sergeant Peter DeLouis (left), and Officer Scott Twombly (right).

“Police are being very careful to see which is a serious threat and which is maybe some lark. Or somebody thinking it’s a mischievous prank,” said Lamont. Blumenthal added, “This is no joke.”

According to The Children’s Defense Fund: “Gun violence remains the number one cause of death for children ages one to 19, with the gun death rate for children at almost five in every 100,000 in 2020. Babies born the year of the watershed Columbine massacre are now 24 years old. No youth today knows a world without the threat of sudden deadly gun violence.”

The Lakeville Journal interviewed Winchester Chief of Police Christopher Ciuci following recent threats and school closings affected in Winsted.

**Almquist:** Chief Ciuci, when did you begin working with the Winchester Police Department?

**Ciuci:** I’ve been in Winsted for a year and a half, after just shy of 29 years in Berlin. I grew up in Fairfield County and now I’m learning Litch-

field County.

**JA:** Parents on social media said they were afraid to take their kids to Pearson School in Winsted (elementary school serving 300 children grades 3 to 6) recently. There was talk of a boy threatening with a gun on their school bus. There seemed to be a lot of confusion — parents concerned about what’s real and what isn’t. There was also a lot of criticism of the response from various authorities, including school administrators and police. After school shootings like the recent one in Georgia, there is usually an uptick in copycats on social media, but this seemed different. The threats were more prevalent — more national and widespread. Do these threats seem different to you?

**CC:** There was a contagious effect throughout Connecticut. What exacerbated that really was the social media. Once it got out there, it just kind of spiraled. It is hard dealing with all these different social media platforms. Getting out the proper message — there is a lot of

misinformation. We have dealt with things like this in the past, so there are plans in place. We have a good relationship with the schools, and Emergency Management in Winsted. When you’re talking about school safety, it’s really that partnership between all of us — the parents, the community, the town, the Police department, the Fire department, and Emergency and Emergency Management — everybody. There are plans in place at the school required by state law — school safety plans, lockdown drills.

**JA:** Was the school’s response adequate?

**CC:** I thought the principal over at Pearson School did a good job. They were dealing with a child that is only 9 years old. In Connecticut you can’t even charge a child under 10 with a crime. To be honest with you, we don’t even want to get involved with a child so young. With juveniles, our first default mechanism is to divert from the criminal justice system. Especially with a child that age. We have diversion

programs; a juvenile review board here, but in this situation, nothing really fit that criterion, because of the age of the child. The school had procedures in place. They met with their social workers, and threat assessment team. They did what they were supposed to do and made an assessment.

**JA:** Why were parents so critical of the response?

**CC:** I know where things got carried away because instead of the parents dealing directly with the school, or dealing directly with us, they just started putting stuff out on social media. Then that triggers and creates alarms, and that is what we want to try to avoid. After any incident like this it’s important to sit down, look at how it was handled, and determine what can we do better next time.

**JA:** It was reported that recently in Ansonia, a 13-year-old girl confessed that she made a threatening school post. She was charged with first-degree threatening and second-degree breach of the peace. In Florida, Sheriff Mike Chitwood perp walked

an eleven-year-old suspect into custody, and a video of the child being arrested was shown to the public. The authorities said they wanted to publicly shame the parents and their child. How do you respond to that approach?

**CC:** It is hard to determine a lot of these threats that are circulating now, because the technology allows them to know they’re anonymous. We don’t know where they’re coming in. They are disguising the numbers, disguising emails, disguising the social media posts. So, it’s difficult to track that back to the source and pursue it criminally. Make no mistake, if we can identify them, we really have a zero-tolerance policy at this department when it comes to threats. If a child was of age to be criminally charged, we would still follow through with that referral process, but we would divert them to the juvenile review board. But if there was a crime committed by someone of age, the message we want to send the child is that we’re going to pursue criminal charges.

**JA:** How do you determine a real threat?

**CC:** It is a multi-layered problem when the threat is real — you have the actual perpetrator, you have an actual crime that’s going to be committed. I think probably the hardest thing is determining whether a threat is real or not. We’re a small department without enough staffing. When you talk about school safety it takes a town-wide commitment. Not just supporting the people involved in public safety, but financially supporting them as well. Providing public safety is not cheap. But it’s in between handling calls for service such as dealing with school incidents which pulls everybody away from everything else.

The Children’s Defense Fund states: “Our nation’s young people deserve the chance to have a childhood free from violence and a country with leaders who ensure that they are safe in their schools, neighborhoods, and communities.”

## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

A meeting of the plot owners of the Amenia Island Cemetery Association will be held on Tuesday, November 19th at 5:00 p.m. at the Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22 Amenia, NY for the purpose of electing trustees and for such other matters that may properly come before the meeting.

The annual meeting of the trustees will immediately follow the meeting of the plot owners.

10-31-24  
11-07-24  
11-14-24

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P.O. Box 568  
Salisbury, CT 06068  
Megan M. Foley  
Clerk  
10-31-24

# OUR TOWNS



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The Suffragen Bishop of Connecticut, the Right Reverend Laura J. Ahrens, at Trinity Episcopal Church.

## Trinity Episcopal Church marks 150 years in Lime Rock

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LIME ROCK — Trinity Episcopal Church in Lime Rock celebrated the 150th anniversary of the church's consecration Sunday, Oct. 27, with the Suffragen Bishop of Connecticut, the Right Reverend Laura J. Ahrens presiding.

During the sermon, Ahrens said "I feel blessed to share in this celebration with all of you" and praised the congregation for being "willing to expand your vision of what faith means."

## Holiday assistance programs available

Salisbury Family Services is preparing for its' annual holiday giving programs. Turkeys will be provided at Thanksgiving, grocery gift cards and gifts for children will be provided at Christmas.

The deadline to register for the Holiday gift program is Monday, Nov. 18, 2024.

The deadline to register for the Thanksgiving program is Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2024.

Keep in mind that fuel as-

Trinity Episcopal Church, was established when William H. Barnum, chairman of the Barnum Richardson Company in Lime Rock and a U.S. Congressman, was convinced that the hamlet's residents needed their own church, rather than traveling to St. John's Episcopal Church in Salisbury.

The cornerstone was laid in 1873, the church was consecrated in 1874, and by 1875 the church was officially part of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut.

assistance applications are currently being taken for fuel deliveries made between Nov. 1, 2024 and April 1, 2025. Apply soon.

You may qualify for fuel assistance if your income is under:

\$59,507 for a household size of two, \$73,509 for a household size of three, \$87,511 for a household size of four.

Families who are in need should contact Patrice McGrath, at (860) 435-5187.

## Coat drive to benefit FISH

SALISBURY — The Middle School Chorus class at Salisbury Central School has organized a collection of gently used coats, winter vests, hats, gloves and scarves to benefit FISH Homeless Shelter (Friends in Service to Humanity) of NWCT.

All items can be dropped off during school hours in the front entrance of SCS Upper Building on Lincoln City Road in Lakeville, until Friday, Nov. 8.

This community service project coincides with the SCS Student Food Drive to benefit the local food pantry.

Send news tips to [johnc@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:johnc@lakevillejournal.com)

# OBITUARIES

## Virginia A. Darden

he predeceased her.

Throughout their early years, as Bob's career grew from a private attorney and attorney for the Federal Small Business Administration, and eventually, to its Regional Counsel for the West Coast and Pacific Islands, the Dardens moved from Fort Collins and Denver, Colorado, to Washington D.C., to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and to San Francisco, California.

Their family also grew; they added four children Dave, Tom, Anne and Margaret, and in each location, Virginia played an active role in their schools, and was part of the choir at Our Lady of Fatima in Albuquerque, in addition to founding two sorority houses at Colorado State University and at the University of New Mexico, and volunteering at St. Joseph's Hospital in Albuquerque, where she edited, and wrote a column for the hospital newsletter. She was an avid reader and played piano throughout her life, well into her nineties.

In 1994 she and Bob moved for the last time, following Bob's retirement, to Lakeville to be near to their daughter, Anne Richardson and their grandson Barrie Richardson. In Lakeville they found a welcoming community, enrolled in music appreciation classes at Taconic Learning Center, exercised at Hotchkiss indoor track, and were active at St. Mary's Church in the choir, with

Virginia volunteering for the food pantry at Owl's Kitchen. They continued to travel abroad and continentally, even driving from Lakeville to San Diego at the age of 90.

In addition to her husband and parents, she is predeceased by her beloved son David, her brother Jack Appleton, his wife Dorothy, and her nephew Robert Appleton. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law Thomas and Rebecca Darden, her daughter Anne Richardson and Howard Chico Aller, her



daughter, and son-in-law, Margaret and Steven Garber, three grandchildren, Madeline Garber and her husband Randy Thurber, Barrie Richardson, and Kristina Darden, two great-grandchildren, Ruth and Hendricks Thurber, her nephew and his wife, Bruce and Julie Appleton, and a grandniece and several grand nephews.

A funeral mass will be held at St. Mary's Church in Lakeville on Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Newkirk Palmer Funeral Home, Canaan. In lieu of flowers, charitable contributions can be sent to American Red Cross.

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



## Worship Services

Week of November 3, 2024

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

**Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon**  
9 South Main, Sharon CT  
Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M.  
Transitioning through prayer  
All welcome to join us  
860-364-5260  
[www.christchurchsharon.org](http://www.christchurchsharon.org)

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

**North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC**  
Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people  
172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT  
Worship services Sundays at 10 am  
[www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational](http://www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational)  
860-824-7232

**FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH**  
is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan  
Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm  
[www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org](http://www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org)

**Congregation Beth David**  
A Reform Jewish Synagogue  
3344 East Main St., Amenia  
SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM  
Twice Monthly - Followed by Oneg (Calendar at [congbethdavid.org](http://congbethdavid.org))  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
Rabbi Jon Haddon  
845-373-8264  
[info@congbethdavid.org](mailto:info@congbethdavid.org)

**The Lakeville United Methodist Church**  
319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039  
9:15 a.m. Worship Service  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"  
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse  
860-435-9496  
[Lakevillemethodist@snet.net](mailto:Lakevillemethodist@snet.net)

**The Sharon United Methodist Church**  
112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green  
Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care  
No Sunday School in Summer  
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse  
860-364-5634  
[sharonumc5634@att.net](mailto:sharonumc5634@att.net)

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

**The Smithfield Presbyterian Church**  
656 Smithfield Valley Rd.  
Route 83, Amenia, NY  
Services every Sunday 10 a.m.  
[www.thsmithfieldchurch.org](http://www.thsmithfieldchurch.org)  
21st Century Theology in an Historic Building

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

**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](http://www.promisedlandbaptist.org)

**All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church**  
313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT  
Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M.  
Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M.  
Special Services Online  
Rev. John Kreta  
860-824-1340 | [allsaintsofamerica.us](http://allsaintsofamerica.us)

**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!  
Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming  
[www.salisburyucc.org](http://www.salisburyucc.org)  
Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy!  
(860) 435-2442

**Trinity Episcopal Church**  
484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville  
Offering companionship along the Way  
Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School at 9 a.m.  
Livestream at 10:30 found at [www.trinitylimerock.org](http://www.trinitylimerock.org)  
The Rev. Heidi Truax  
[trinity@trinitylimerock.org](mailto:trinity@trinitylimerock.org)  
(860) 435-2627

**Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT**  
Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons  
Sunday, November 10 at 10:30 a.m.  
Marlon Williams will present: HOW WE LIVE TOGETHER  
For information, contact Jo Loi at [jokialoi@gmail.com](mailto:jokialoi@gmail.com)  
All are Welcome

**Chabad of Northwest CT**  
On the Green  
69 West St. Litchfield, CT 06759  
[chabadNW.org](http://chabadNW.org)  
860.567.3377 | office@chabadNW.org  
Rabbi Joseph & Mina Eisenbach  
A home away from home, a gathering place where unity is paramount.  
We are here for you, welcome to the family!  
WINTER SCHEDULE  
Sunday 10:30 AM - Hebrew School  
Wednesday 8:00 PM - Parsha In My Life  
How The Weekly Portion Relates to ME!  
Thursday 11:30 AM - Women's Tea & Torah  
Saturday 9:30 AM - Shabbat Services  
Followed by a Congregational Kiddush  
Children's Camp | Jewish Newspaper  
Smiles on Seniors | CTeen | YJP

**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 4 pm, St. Joseph Church  
Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary  
Sunday 11 a.m.,  
Immaculate Conception Church  
DAILY MASS SCHEDULE  
Wednesday 6pm  
St. Joseph Church or Church  
Thursday 8am  
Immaculate Conception Church  
Friday 8am  
Church of St. Mary  
ALL ARE WELCOME!  
For information, please call 860-824-7078

**UCC in CORNWALL**  
Cornwall Village Meeting House  
Worship Sunday, 10 am  
Outstanding Church School (10 am)  
Mission Opportunities  
Warm Fellowship following Worship  
860-672-6840  
[www.uccincornwall.org](http://www.uccincornwall.org)  
Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister  
Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community

**The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall**  
Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m.  
Trinity Retreat Center Chapel  
Lower River Road, West Cornwall  
in person and on zoom  
Warm fellowship following service  
All Are Welcome!  
[www.allsaintscornwall.org](http://www.allsaintscornwall.org)  
Rev. Mary Gates!

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The Endorsement

Last week The Washington Post and The Los Angeles Times announced that they would not endorse a presidential candidate in this year's race. The moves grabbed headlines and prompted outcry from readers of those newspapers, many of whom threatened to immediately cancel their subscriptions. The Post's publisher said the decision reflected "our readers ability to make up their own minds." In a similar vein, the owner of The Times suggested that the paper list candidate pros and cons "and let the readers decide," according to a report in the Associated Press.

Following these announcements some of our own readers have inquired whether The Journal would be endorsing any candidate. In fact, that question also has been brought up occasionally in past weeks as campaigns got underway. In our recent history, before becoming a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit in 2021, we also engaged in political endorsement — but no longer, because of our new status. We were saved from the struggle to survive in a declining newspaper climate by our readers and advertisers and by a community that wanted to preserve its independent community newspaper. In recent years, many U.S. newspapers have been dropping endorsements. Some have cited readership declines, and not wanting to give readers a reason to cancel subscriptions. Others realized that readers don't really want to be told what to think. The Editorial also had become one of the least read features in the paper.

The Lakeville Journal continues the tradition of The Editorial, aiming to be relevant and interesting and worth your time. Your letters and our columns offer an invaluable source of viewpoints. We appreciate your support in our mission to be the best local newspaper possible, providing you with news that matters.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support for Harding

I enthusiastically support State Senator Stephen Harding, a dedicated candidate of principle and proven advocacy for the 30th district.

Some background on Stephen Harding: Raised in the 30th District, resident for over 34 consecutive years, married to a dedicated New Milford school teacher, attorney and small business owner, husband and father of two, current Senate Minority Leader.

His successes include: preservation of over 1800 acres for open space, helped preserve Sharon Hospital's Maternity Ward, lowered the state income tax, passed bear management legislation, secured millions to improve infrastructure and school

construction. Beyond his proven track record, he supports lower electric rates, preventing over development and opposes state-wide zoning, reducing the cost of living so residents can remain in CT, keeping education decisions with local Boards of Education and making CT more business friendly.

Most importantly, he spends time in our town and our district listening to our concerns, and then works to effect meaningful change. Steve is approachable and committed to making a difference for the 30th District. A vote for Harding will make a positive difference in our lives.

Newt Schoenly  
Salisbury

Stein vote is Trump vote

For those who are still undecided or are planning to vote for Jill Stein, please remember that a vote for Stein, or a non-vote, is effectively a vote for Trump. Many who are thinking of voting for Stein see their choice as a protest against some of Kamala Harris's policies. But do you really think Palestinians would suffer less under Trump? No, they'd be worse off because Trump wouldn't push for a cease fire; he would back Netanyahu in his quest to destroy Gaza. Do you think we would have fewer foreign wars? Trump has vowed to blow up cities in Iran, which could mean using nuclear weapons. Do you think the world would be better with Putin's forces eating into Ukraine or even occupying that country? Which Eastern European country would be next? Trump has vowed to get the U.S. out of NATO, making Europe vulnerable to Russia's encroachments. And what about education?

Trump has vowed to block federal funding for schools that have curricula he doesn't agree with. Trump would pack the federal courts with those who support him, as he did the Supreme Court which decided he is immune from prosecution for anything he did as president. And what about his cabinet and other advisers? Musk? Kennedy? Bannon? Miller? They're a dangerous bunch of clowns. He would tear apart immigrant families across the country, spending billions of dollars and destabilizing the economy. And with the encouragement of the weaselly JD Vance, he would work towards a national abortion ban.

Please, if you love our country, if you want a president who will uphold democracy, if you want a world that won't devolve into chaos, vote for Kamala Harris.

Anne Makepeace  
Lakeville

Wholehearted endorsement of Steven Harding

It is my pleasure to wholeheartedly support the candidacy of Steve Harding for reelection to state senate.

He has enthusiastically supported women's rights and has acted in favor of our constituents in many different ways.

To enumerate his prior-

ities:

- 1-to prevent over development and oppose state wide zoning.
- 2-support police and reduce crime
- 3-lower electric rates
- 4-reduce the cost of living so residents can stay in Connecticut

5-keep education decisions with local Boards of Education

6-make Connecticut more business friendly.

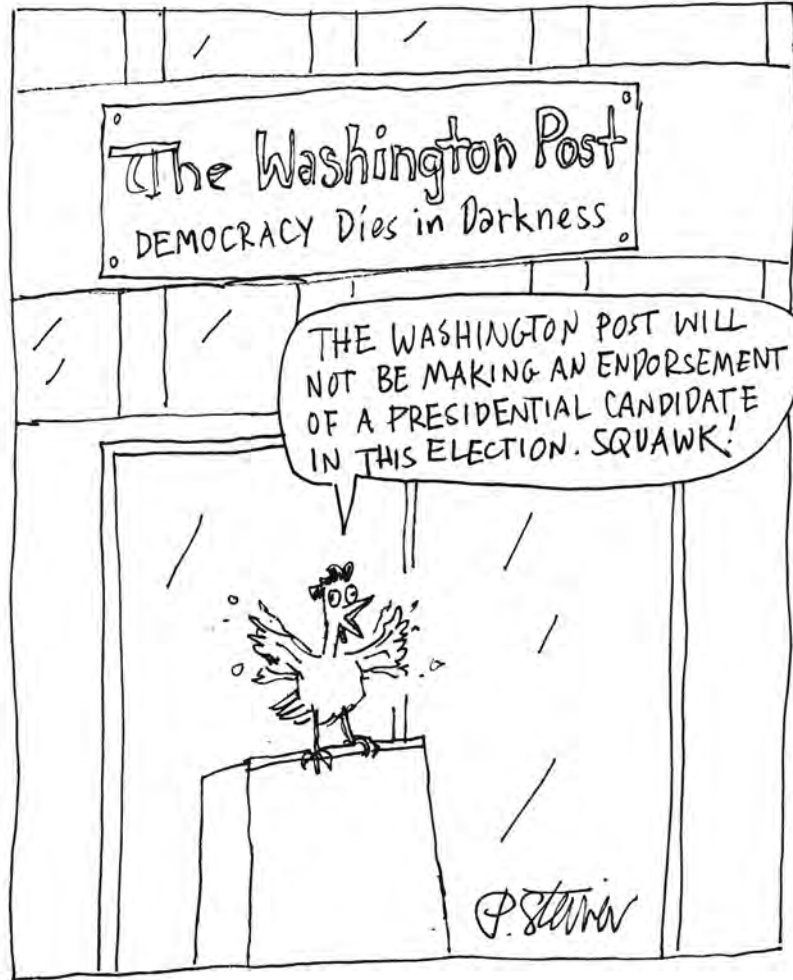
He has enormous energy

and has spent it on our behalf for his past term.

I strongly suggest he be reelected!

Maureen Bateman  
Salisbury

More letters on Page A8.



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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Will we elect a 'demented autocrat'

"If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants."

Isaac Newton

Our giants include the generations of our parents, grandparents, and beyond who have sacrificed and fought against autocratic regimes that are based on hatred, lies and atrocities. They have defended American and global lives and democratic ideals, fought control by the wealthy, powerful, and privileged. The few survivors of the great generation which defeated Hitlerism can still look us in the eye. Today's soldiers and veterans and their families still defend our way of life. And the departed are still among us in our vivid memories. Will we betray them all, demean their sacrifices, throw out their heritage, and elect our own demented autocrat who once again appeals to prejudices and hatred, dismantles the institutions of law, justice, and democracy, and uses lies, threats, and violence to gain control over our future?

We can look back and see how this happened to a Germany of civilized people.

A vote for Justin Potter

As a life-long retailer I am well aware of the daily challenges that small businesses face. And I know that Justin Potter, the Democratic contender for the State Senate, is well aware of these same challenges because he too is a small business owner.

Having someone represent our district who experiences these issues first hand is so important to all of us who serve our communities by operating stores and businesses. I know Justin will look out for the interests of small business and to reduce the burdens we face. I'm not referring to businesses who have 25 employees or more. I am referring to the small shops that dot our villages with their uniqueness. We

can look at Russia today where the interests of a rich plutocracy aligned with an autocratic, repressive, criminal ruler. And surely, we can now see how it happens in our own lived experience. A thousand cuts and lies distract us and feed our hatreds. Wealthy individuals and corporations buy politicians or their own positions in government. "Enemies within" are fabricated, suppressed, and crushed, first with threats and loosely organized violence, and finally with enduring repressive violent and autocratic institutions. When is this irreversible?

We can still preserve the institutions, values, and traditions that truly make America great. Before voting, think about how the rule of law works for you, defending your safety, property, and opportunities. Should we all disregard laws that are inconvenient to us as Trump does? Can you rely on lawyers or guns, both to bend and manipulate laws and norms to your advantage, and to defend yourself against those who do that to you? Will you tolerate a

government controlled by a minority of extremists? Will you bribe officials for favors granted, as the supreme court has authorized, just to get fair treatment under what is left of the law? Does the need to make sense of our conflicting attitudes about transgender people and illegal and legal immigrants really justify a revolution?

A Trump administration would overturn much of what we all have cherished as Americans, kicking through its remnants for what the powerful can use. Republicans will not perform basic functions of lawmaking and governance, budgeting, physical infrastructure, and social support, all necessary to stability and prosperity, except to serve ideological extremists or the powerful and wealthy. Global investors will demand higher interest on debt from an administration whose solution to mismanagement is lower tax revenue and default or declare bankruptcy. Our allies and partners will not trust a lying, unreliable, capricious president and administration. These things will cost us dearly. Vote Democratic to choose tradition, order, and truth, over chaos this election.

Mark Picton  
Salisbury

LETTERS

Harding nod for reelection

The Harding-Potter debate, sponsored in Litchfield recently by the League of Women Voters, was a well-run, informative event touching on many issues for 1.5 hours. Both candidates seek to make Connecticut more affordable. What became evident over the course of the debate was Harding's focus on lowering living expenses, fending off state interference in local zoning, and opposing attempts to overdevelop our district, particularly in our rural communities. Potter supports high density housing development in our local towns.

Harding clearly showed himself to be a moderate, independent voice, committed to representing his neighbors here in the Northwest Corner. He was extremely well versed on the issues facing us from Hartford ... so well versed that whenever his opponent criticized some of his votes, Potter was promptly informed by Harding how these legislative proposals would crush our taxpayers. Not to demean Potter, who exhibited confident speaking skills, but we can't afford a tax-and-spend Democrat who will work to overdevelop our local towns.

Peter Becket  
Lakeville

Black cats deserve our love

While other prominent American newspapers have refrained from taking a stand on matters of national importance, I was heartened to see the Lakeville Journal take a firm stand on an issue that has for so long been ignored. I am referring to your story "Black cats unfairly shunned, stigmatized, say regional animal rescue groups"

As a black cat grandmother, I have long felt the sting of black cat prejudice, heard the "eews and yucks" and seen the shudders of ignorant people. Black cats deserve to be loved just like cats of other colors. Thank you Debra Aleksinas for bringing this matter to our attention.

Anne Day  
Salisbury

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## Viewpoint

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

## 100 years ago — October 1924

Mr. and Mrs. E.R. Smith have gone with Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Parsons to the latter's place, "Isle of Hope," an island off the coast of Georgia, for the winter. Mr. Smith has the position of chauffeur for Mr. Parsons.

Last Saturday Ferdinand Rapp of Falls Village was in collision with Robert Graham, also of Falls Village, at the Salisbury end of the bridge over the Housatonic at Amesville. No serious damage was done, but Rapp was arrested and charged with violation of the rules of the road in not giving Graham sufficient room to pass, also for not having his brakes in good condition and for operating without a license. He was brought before Justice Tuttle Monday and pleaded guilty. He was fined \$5.00 on each of the first two counts, and \$10.00 for operating without a license, amounting to \$20.00. The costs were \$12.01.

The home of Mrs. Susan Bennett on Factory Street, Salisbury, was completely destroyed by fire on Wednesday evening. The fire started in the chimney and had practically consumed the house before the alarm was given. It is understood that the house was covered by insurance.

LIME ROCK — Charles Cashdollar had the misfortune of falling in the woods, and hurting his side one day last week.

Governor Templeton on Tuesday placed a ban on all hunting in the woods, owing to the danger of forest fires. The governors of other nearby states have taken similar action.

## 50 years ago — October 1974

A distinct possibility loomed this week that local court sessions, restored to Northwest Connecticut only last April after an absence of 2½ years, may again be withdrawn. Judge Roman J. Lexton, who presided over the monthly meeting of the 18th Circuit Court in Salisbury last Thursday, said no further sessions were being scheduled for November or December. He closed the file rather than continue several motor vehicle cases.

The Little Guild of St. Francis for the Welfare of Animals formally divided into two groups at its last meeting Sunday. The Little Guild will serve the towns of Sharon, Cornwall, Salisbury, North Canaan, Lakeville, Falls Village, Norfolk and Kent. A new corporation, The Litchfield Animal League, will serve the towns of Torrington, Litchfield, Bethlehem, Morris and Harwinton. Director Alexander Spence said that the directors decided that the area formerly served by the Little Guild was too large for one organization, both financially and for the animal population.

A "suspicious" fire, believed to be caused by arson, leveled a two-story barn on Hospital Hill Road in Sharon last Thursday evening. The vacant building was owned by Dr. Richard Westsmith. The fire is believed to be the second case of arson on Dr. Westsmith's property in the past six months. State and local fire marshals and Connecticut State Police are investigating the latest blaze.

Nellie Rodgers, long-time servant of Falls Village, was honored by her many friends and admirers Sunday at a reception in Miner Hall. Miss Rodgers was presented with \$1,000, a trip to Acapulco and a scroll signed by her friends.

The State Bond Commission approved a \$37,800 grant last Friday for the purchase of another 71 acres of land in Robbins Swamp in Canaan. The land currently belongs to Fiorella and Joseph M. Segalla. A Department of Environmental Protection spokesman said that the purchase is part of an ongoing effort by the state to create a large wildlife preserve. He said that Robbins Swamp is the largest inland wetland in the state.

No word has yet been received from state officials on the fate of the former Lawrence Playground. First Selectman Leo Segalla said this week that he has called the state Department of Transportation several times in an effort to find out what the final disposition of the property will be. The town has been trying for several years to repurchase the land. It was originally sold to the state in the 1950s as part of the land acquisitions for the relocation of Route 7.

Navy Engineman Fireman Francis J. Wilson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence A. Wilson of Sand Road, Falls Village, has returned to Norfolk, Va., aboard the Navy's newest nuclear-powered guided missile frigate, the USS California. A former student at Oliver Wolcott Technical School, Torrington, he joined the Navy in 1974.

The Lakeville office of the Litchfield Savings Bank will

move into its new building at Main and Pettee streets this weekend and will open for business there at 9 a.m. Monday. The building was the home of the late May Bissell and her father, Dr. William Bissell, and dates from about 1860.

## 25 years ago — October 1999

NEW YORK — On a beautiful fall day with music from French horns adding to the occasion, some 50 people gathered in Washington Square Park Monday to honor Lakeville-born Alexander Lyman Holley and to rededicate his refurbished monument. Among them were 12 members of the Salisbury Association and the Holley Williams House Museum and at least a dozen descendants of the man who introduced the Bessemer process of steel-making to the United States and significantly altered its lifestyle and its economy.

A southbound Housatonic Railroad engine went off the track near the engine house in Canaan at about 9:45 a.m. Tuesday when it inadvertently rolled into a second engine it was about to replace. Some 120 feet of rail were damaged. A crane and other equipment were brought in to right the engine. According to Bob DuCharme, superintendent of operations for Housatonic, regular rail traffic would be restored by that evening.

SALISBURY — Five years ago, math mastery scores for the Salisbury Central School were so low a Math Council was formed to address the problem. Now, according to a report presented to the Board of Education Oct. 25, the school math scores are among the highest in the state.

## Rejecting 'nation in decline'

*I reject the notion that America is in well-deserved decline, that she and her citizens are unexceptional. I do not believe America is the problem in the world. I believe America is the solution to the world's problems.*

Rush Limbaugh

I agree with Rush Limbaugh in stark rarity, yet here I quote him in full agreement — rejecting that the U.S. "is in well-deserved decline." For the U.S., as a nation, there continually shifts — light and dark-social, economic, and political factors that shape the U.S. — the 4th largest nation for geographic size, third by population and most envied for resources and prosperity. Over 249 years, 46 Presidents, a civil war, as well as a stream of heroes and of power-seeking wicked, this nation has stumbled and risen — experiencing declines tragic while obtaining powerfully humane, innovative achievements. Pride has sustained as a national trait.

Employment, health care, education levels, life expectancy, number of passports are among factors up in the past half century while wealth remains ill spread (the top 1% owns a rising 30% portion), guns and their horrific violence are beyond comparative levels, child and maternal mortality even before death-dealing reproductive state litigations (post Roe v Wade) exceed all other developed nations. Yet core values amid strongly held beliefs and policies has for centuries prevailed: law with order, truth as the core of justice, civility as the norm of our collaborative democracy, character a distinctive requirement for the Presidency, opportunity for betterment.

The U.S. has been a nation of binding values and

## OPEN SPACE

KATHLEEN HERALD-MARLOW

tolerated difference. Amid national disasters, Americans show up to rescue, fight ravages, utilize their skills, bear goods and services to aid others in distress. Recently Hurricane Helene brought American life saving aid and support to others. This is America — American. However, the change in our demographics, the readjustment of what perhaps was seen as undisruptive privilege among some has tightened strains of race and gender — intensified a desire for restraints, for restrictive access to liberties.

I quake at Trump's dark rhetoric, satisfactory to some and massively revolting to others regarding the seismic depletion of the U.S. as a nation, as a population, as positive in any way. On Jan. 20, 2016, Trump's campaign rhetoric darkened, lies (starting with the size of the inaugural crowd) grew in size, in frequency, in false legality. The 45th President allied with conspiracies, encouraged over throwing the 2020 election as well as raiding of the U.S. Capitol, and ongoingly totes Putin and Kim UG Uh as admirable best buddies, super leaders. Serious illegalities (taking government security documents) as well as just broken promises such as "The American worker will come first again" followed almost immediately by Trump's hiring hundreds of foreigners for repairs, reconstruct at Mar-A-Logo and other Trump properties.

As election day steals closer and closer, the dire threats to U.S. freedoms

swell: lead GOP and heavy supporters chide Americans for being "dictatorphobic" when dictatorship is posed as the preferred state. The proposed Project 2025 overturns previous legislative and constitutional imperatives placing immense power in the hands of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates who with intent spread wild tales/absurdities about migrants in Springfield Ohio, and beyond. These falsehoods are "required to create needed news," calmly explains Vance, falsities to bolsters their candidacy: pets devoured, the federal government refusing aid to Hurricane Helene victims, legal immigrants are illegal, legal immigrants must be deported by the millions. The cap on the Trump/Vance splendor: elect Trump and you'll never have to vote again.

The coming election Nov. 5, is a referendum on the nation — shall it remain a democracy, republic, "one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all" or only for some, with power only for one. Will Americans use their vote to preserve the world's greatest nation? Get out, VOTE, keep America, America.

*People came to America and they did not abandon their own cultures, but they assumed new ones, a new one, an American culture rooted in liberty and freedom that they had never enjoyed in their lives prior. They didn't have to sacrifice who they were. They didn't have to change or give it up, but they were eager to become Americans.*

Rush Limbaugh

*Kathy Herald-Marlowe lives in Sharon.*

## Without the proof, the rig is up

Every presidential election tends to follow a somewhat predictable pattern. As the candidates battle it out we, the voting public, take stock of what's on offer and decide who to support based on a mix of policy, party and personality. The closer we get to Election Day the more we worry about everything from an unwanted "October Surprise" to what undecided voters will ultimately decide to which polls we should believe. The one thing we've never had to worry about—until now—is that the loser might refuse to accept the results of a fair and free election.

This new 'normal' would have been unthinkable a decade ago. How did we get here? There are plenty of theories (and culprits) to go around but that's a topic for another day. The more pressing issue, as Nov. 5 fast approaches, is to debunk the myth that election fraud is widespread because failing to do so threatens the very foundation of our democracy.

Our election system is extremely decentralized, a feature that can be maddening at times (who, in Connecticut, doesn't remember trying to understand what a hanging chad was 2000?). But this fragmentation does have its benefits, primary among them is that it makes conspiring to rig an election impossible. Other than enacting laws to protect the right to vote, the federal

GUEST COMMENTARY  
SUSU LANGLANDS

government has little to do with administering elections. Rather, the vast majority of election law is written (and enforced) at the state level. The states, in turn, rely on over 10,000 local jurisdictions across the country to administer elections, using a mix of paid staff and volunteers to maintain accurate voter rolls, mail out ballots, monitor the polls, count votes and certify the results. While election laws vary from state to state, they all include protective measures designed to ensure the process is secure, including strictly limiting access to ballots and keeping all election-related machines offline.

Has this combination of decentralization and protective measures worked? According to every organization that monitors election fraud, the answer is an unequivocal "yes". Even the uber conservative Heritage Foundation, which maintains a database to track voter fraud, found that of 3 billion votes cast in federal elections since 2016, the percentage of fraudulent votes amounted to a minuscule .0000367.

The presidential election of 2020 was no different and, despite constant cries of a 'rigged election', no proof of

widespread fraud has ever been found.

Trump's legal team lost 60 of 61 court cases, with 50 of the cases being summarily dismissed due to lack of evidence. Even judges appointed by Trump were unimpressed with the arguments being presented and ruled accordingly. The lawsuits were so egregiously frivolous a number of his attorneys faced professional consequences, most notably Rudy Giuliani, who was disbarred.

Christopher Krebs, the Trump-appointed Director of CISA (Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency), was fired in November 2020 after repeatedly telling Trump there was no evidence of widespread fraud. When Krebs went before the Senate he testified, under oath, that the 2020 election was "the most secure in American history".

Following the 2020 election, Dominion Voting Systems and Smartmatic — repeated targets of the Trump team's claim of election fraud — sued various news outlets for defamation. Fox News had to pay Dominion \$787.5 million in damages and Newsmax, eager to avoid an embarrassing trial, settled with Smartmatic for an undisclosed sum.

Recounts were conducted at the behest of Trump's campaign in a number of swing states. Georgia's three recounts confirmed Trump's loss. Arizona allowed an out-

side firm with deep ties to the Republican party, Cyber Ninjas, to do a statewide recount, resulting in a net increase of 360 votes for Biden. Wisconsin did partial recounts in two counties and this, too, resulted in a net gain for Biden, adding 87 votes to his total.

It seems these days everyone feels entitled to their own facts, particularly with the fragmentation of media and the deluge of 'information' on social media platforms like X. But hard evidence, especially when it's based on testimony given under oath, still matters. As do numbers. And all of the hard evidence and numbers that were litigated after the 2020 election prove there was no widespread voter fraud. Period.

Unfortunately, it doesn't seem the story will end there. Trump and his allies are already laying the groundwork for the same unfounded lies about a rigged election if he loses again. This dishonesty should worry us all, even those who voted for Trump in 2020 and plan to do so again. Democracy depends on fair and free elections but it also depends on a shared reality and Trump's "Big Lie" is inflicting lasting damage on both. If we value what makes America great, we need to hold sacred the ritual of casting a vote and, equally important, accepting the results if our candidate doesn't win.

*Susu Langlands lives in Lakeville.*

## Realtor® at Large

For the outdoor enthusiast, it is good to know that hunting season for deer is currently active for archery and soon for shotgun and rifle on both public and private lands. Sundays are usually exempted except for archery on private lands with the landowner's permission. So it is wise to be aware of this and to wear orange while hiking, which includes your dogs, to alert hunters of your presence. A good source of information on hunting in CT can be found in the CTDEEP's 2024 Hunting and Trapping Guide at: [portal.ct.gov/deep/hunting/ct-hunting-and-trapping](http://portal.ct.gov/deep/hunting/ct-hunting-and-trapping)



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Time to heal: Finding common ground

As a former Salisbury resident, my weekly issue of The Lakeville Journal is now delivered to my mailbox at the north end of the Riga Road in Mt. Washington, Massachusetts. I am heartened to read each week's Letter to the Editor page and am eager to join the opportunity for community conversation it so inclusively represents.

As we count down the days to Nov. 5, I am eager to share information I believe will be essential for each of us, now and post-election, going forward as members of our current national and global communities. We need to heal our "great divide" now & after this election.

The good news is that each of these two, non-partisan projects has established templates to facilitate groups

for conversations whose purpose is to identify common ground. Common ground is essential to create and ensure a shared future. While not advertised, each of these projects has been showcased as "a way through the great divide in our country."

Braver Angels. (braverangels.org) was featured in both a New York Times article and a PBS News Hour special. A non-partisan project, its value will grow as we experience common ground as the secure path for the future of our lives and of those we love.

Weave: The Social Fabric Project (weavers.org) is a project with similar foundation and function, conceived and established by David Brooks, The New York Times columnist and a

PBS News Hour weekly political commentator. Websites for Braver Angels and for Weavers clearly describe their missions and include documentary film samples.

We will each need to reach across our now-disturbed comfort zones. A former sense of national wellbeing has become critically endangered. The U.S. Surgeon General reports statistical evidence that isolation and loneliness increase the incidence of all chronic diseases, in all ages and in all demographics! Dr. Murthy alerts us to the most alarming evidence of our crisis: our youth is expressing a dramatic, incremental pandemic of depression and suicide. (hhs.gov/surgeon-general/priorities/youth).

The statistics in our Surgeon General's reports must

inform our hearts and minds to apportion our already busy lives with a commitment to add our voices to the critical conversations. Braver Angels and Weavers welcome any level of participation. We can begin with curiosity as a way to confront a paralyzing angst. Surely there are other groups hosting new conversations. Thanks to the freedom of the press, we can look forward to learning many "other" ideas for the new conversations we must have. Let's grow our hopes into discoveries of common ground! And, upon these foundations, let us move courageously into the future together.

Respectfully,

**Vanessa Noble Gang**  
Mt. Washington, Mass.

### Opposing development at Wake Robin Inn

We have only recently learned about the Wake Robin development proposal but did manage to attend the Zoom presentation on Oct. 16. We have been pre-occupied with the National election as well as work — like so many other Salisbury residents. We hope that no serious decisions will be made regarding this project until more people have had the opportunity to consider it, after the election is settled.

First, we believe that this development could hardly have found a worse location than that stretch of Route 41 and Wells Hill Road. For three years, before the pandemic, we lived in a house situated almost directly opposite the entrance to the

Wake Robin Inn on 41. We struggled to get out of the driveway, given the hilly, curving road and fast-moving, unseen traffic. Although we now live on a quiet road in Lakeville, we sympathize with the residences neighboring the Wake Robin. To our minds, it is clear that their property values will decline if the project goes through.

If it has not already been done, we hope and expect that the town will undertake a comprehensive study of traffic and safety concerns in this area regarding density, speed, elevation changes, congestion, and additional crossings on both 41 and Wells Hill before coming to a decision.

The Hotchkiss crosswalk, where teenagers need to traverse two sides of the Hotchkiss campus; the spot where Wells Hill Road joins busy Route 41 at St. Mary's Church; and the stop where congested traffic turns from Lakeville to points north and west: these already present a challenge to all. Should we add to that a Development with an event space three times that of the Troutbeck Hotel?

Regarding this plan for a large events space, it would be hard to match the model of White Hart Inn, which grew organically, with a surrounding settlement for two centuries; it functions as a de facto community center and offers many events that

are free and welcoming to all. Can a large construction in the Robin Hill location really be worth the evident problems?

Some of the details (or lack of details) for the proposed Development remind us of those that battered our former hometown, the village of Sag Harbor, New York. Over the last ten years, a number of LLC's with curiously opaque identities threatened Sag Harbor's economically and environmentally sensitive waterfront. This was a tale of asymmetry, given the town's limited resources to defend itself. Sag Harbor needed a war chest to protect itself from lawsuits and dubious claims of community benefits from opportunistic firms. Of course the Wake Robin developers may or may not be cut from a similar cloth; we just don't know.

Even as relative newcomers we know that Salisbury is in possession of rare and fragile assets, which have been preserved and shaped for future generations thanks to decades of hard work by dedicated and generous citizens. These are easy to lose.

**May Castleberry**  
**Michael FitzGerald**  
Lakeville

### Support for Stephen Harding (R-30)

I am writing this letter in support of Steve Harding's reelection to the 30th Senate District. In February, 2024, he was elected Senate Minority Leader. I have known Steve for the past four years and I have found him to be very engaged, hard working and committed to his constituents. Because of inflation over the past four years, Harding has made the increased cost of living to average Americans a major campaign issue. Additionally,

he has been very supportive, together with a small group of local officials, State and Federal elected representatives - Republicans and Democrats - of maintaining labor and delivery and intensive care at Sharon Hospital. He has worked with Save Sharon Hospital, Inc., to keep women's health at the top of the State's agenda and to support the continuation of labor and delivery services at Sharon Hospital. He understands, that in rural areas

throughout the United States, over the past decade, more than 200 hospitals across the country have shut down labor and delivery services which has caused women's health to suffer. Steve Harding understands these critical issues impacting our local community and has worked tirelessly for us. I urge his reelection!

**Victor Germack**  
Salisbury

### U.S. is failing us, needs reinvention

Recent polling reveals a troubling truth: nearly half of American voters doubt our experiment in self-governance is working, believing our democracy fails to represent ordinary citizens. This crisis of confidence demands serious reflection on our system's future.

At almost 250 years old, the American government stands as one of the world's most enduring political systems. Only Britain's constitutional monarchy has lasted longer, at 317 years — though its decline from global empire to a post-Brexit nation serves as a cautionary tale about institutional decay. Most other major nations' current governments are relatively young, less than 100 years old.

Why do governments eventually fail? The answer often lies in the convergence of ruling party hubris and elite greed. Those in power inevitably prioritize their interests: politicians desperately cling to their positions while the wealthy pursue ever-greater fortunes, both at society's expense. In America, this corruption manifests most clearly in our campaign

finance system, where unlimited special interest money effectively purchases political influence.

This systematic failure explains why approximately half of Americans have lost faith in their government's democratic premise. Many see Donald Trump as a desperate gambit to break the status quo, despite his brazen corruption and willingness to accept bribes for political favors. Meanwhile, Democrats present themselves as trustworthy alternatives while refusing to acknowledge their own complicity in the system of legalized bribery.

Paradoxically, Trump's potential return to power — though deeply concerning to many — might serve as a catalyst for necessary change. Our current system suffers from fundamental flaws: legalized corruption through campaign contributions, constitutional structures that give disproportionate power to the minority (such as two senators per state regardless of population), and an Electoral College that regularly thwarts the popular will. These anti-democratic elements are unlikely to be

reformed from within, as too many politicians benefit from maintaining the status quo.

Perhaps we need to hit rock bottom — through four years of chaos, cronyism, and corruption — before we can achieve the catharsis necessary for meaningful reform. A truly democratic system serving the people's needs might only emerge from the ashes of our current failing institutions. While such a system might itself eventually require renewal, as all governments do, it could serve several generations more effectively than our current arrangement.

The cycle of political decay and renewal appears inevitable given humanity's inherent tendencies toward power-seeking and greed. History consistently demonstrates that no nation, including the United States, is immune to this pattern. The question now is not whether change will come, but whether we will be able to channel the coming disruption toward major constructive reform.

**Lloyd Baroody**  
Lakeville

## OUR TOWNS

### Kent pursues grant for Swift House

By Alec Linden

KENT — The Board of Selectmen accepted a resolution for a grant application to Connecticut's State Historic Preservation to initiate the process of placing the Swift House on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

The grant, which is for \$15,000, would fund the payroll for a contracted architectural historian to survey the property and produce a "historic designation report." This report would then support the town's application to enroll the Swift House, which is owned by the town, with the NRHP. The resolution also includes the BOS's consent to apply for admission to the NRHP as the town's elected officials.

The selectmen discussed potential uses for the property, including future workforce housing. BOS administrative assistant Joyce Kearns pointed out that redevelopment of any kind will be difficult due to the many restrictions that will be placed upon the structure due to its candidacy as a historic site.

New EDC in talks

The BOS discussed forming a new Economic Development Committee, following the example of other Northwest towns such as Washington, Cornwall, and Salisbury.

First Selectman Marty Lindenmayer cited an injection of energy and activity into the region as a driving factor for developing the new committee.

In the ten years he's been a full-time resident, "[the town] has changed," he said, positing that a specified committee on economic development could help streamline the positive effects of that change. With the prospect of affordable housing options in town, Lindenmayer said now is the perfect time to stimulate the town's economy.

"We play an interesting role in the state," said Lindenmayer, citing the town's natural beauty, recreational opportunities, quality of life, and picturesque downtown. Selectwoman Lynn Worthington added that the town's many art galleries and creative opportunities are an additional draw.

### Falls Village Cafe closes after three years on Main Street

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — First Selectman Dave Barger confirmed that the Falls Village Cafe has permanently closed.

In a phone interview from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, where he is on vacation, Barger said the cafe has confirmed it has shut down.

Barger said, "We are actively looking" for a

new tenant. "We're putting together a list" of interested parties.

The cafe opened in July 2021 on the ground floor of the town-owned 107 Main St. It shared the ground floor and Main Street frontage with Furnace Art on Paper Archive.

The second floor of 107 Main St. is the home of the town's Senior Center.

**DATE: FRI NOV 8 2024**  
**TIME: 2:00 PM**  
**LOCATION: SALISBURY CENTRAL SCHOOL GYMNASIUM!**

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**Let us thank you for all you have done for our country!**

# Sports

## Cornwall youth soccer hosts North Canaan

The Cornwall Tornadoes took on the North Canaan Miners at Foote Field Saturday, Oct. 26. North Canaan won the match 4-2. Both teams are composed of players in grades 4 through 6. The 2024 season marks the first time Region One soccer clubs have played out-of-town teams since before the pandemic.



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

## Banged up GNH loses to Watertown

Watertown High School's star QB Brady Gambee led the Warriors to a 42-6 win over Gilbert/Northwestern/Housatonic co-op football Saturday, Oct. 26. GNH returned from the bye week with a new backfield. Captains Leif Johnson and Owen Stimson stepped in at running back and quarterback respectively, filling in for starters Mason Sobol and Ty Devita, both out with torn ACLs. GNH plays the next three games on the road before returning to Winsted on Thanksgiving morning against St. Paul Catholic High School.



QB Brady Gambee runs away from GNH Saturday, Oct. 26.

WR Owen Riemer elevates for a pass down the sideline. PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Girls from left, Rose Fitch, Olivia Brooks, Hannah Johnson, Gabi Titone, Ellie Wolgemuth and Kip Galvin.

## HVRHS sends 13 cross country runners to states

Housatonic Valley Regional High School was well represented at the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference Class S cross country meet in Manchester Saturday, Oct. 26. The Mountaineers had seven boys and six girls attend. HVRHS seniors Kyle McCarron and Gabi Titone both earned all-state status and qualified for the State Open Meet.



Boys from left, Bailey Williams, Jassim Mohyidin, Zach Bezerra, Kyle McCarron, Finn Malone, Byron Bell and Silas Tripp.



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**MATT COREY**  
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**GEORGE LOGAN**  
U.S. Congress,  
5th Congressional District

**STEVE HARDING**  
Connecticut Senate,  
30th Senate District

**BARBARA BREOR**  
Connecticut Legislature,  
64th District

*Paid for by the Salisbury Republican Town Committee*

## FARMS

Continued from Page A1

request against the residential construction in July.

Paley Farm was put under a farmland protection easement in 1984 by retired farmer Morris Paley, who told a New York Times reporter in a 1982 interview that he wanted the land to remain a working farm.

The other property, 39 Sharon Mountain Road, was put under easement by farmer Walter "Pete" Turkiewicz in 1986. It was purchased by Rokeby Farm, LLC and signed for by James Reddoch of Rye, New York in December 2021, three months before David and Liza Bainbridge, also of Rye, purchased Paley Farm. Reddoch and the Bainbridges filed applications to construct within three months of each other, and both applications were approved by the DOA in August 2023.

Attempts at contact with Reddoch and the Bainbridges were unsuccessful.

### Interpreting easements

According to DOA Director of Communications Rebecca Eddy, the DOA's decision-making process regarding such applications is "guided by the language contained in the particular recorded deed at issue."

Eddy explained that amendments made to the development rights program in 1988 and 1996 tightened the bounds of permissible residence construction, but those amendments don't work retroactively. As the DOA construction approval letters for both properties state, "It is likely that this house would not be permitted under our current statutes and deed requirements." The original language, however, is all that applies.

That language, per the Turkiewicz property deed, retains the right to construct "residences for persons directly incidental to farm operation [...] as long as the acreage and productivity of arable land for crops is not materially decreased and due consideration is given to the impact of any decrease in acreage or productivity of such arable land upon the total farm operation."

In the applications submitted by both Reddoch and the Bainbridges, the owners described their planned con-



PHOTO BY TAYLOR PLETT

**More than 200 acres of state-protected farmland at 39 Sharon Mountain Rd. was approved for development by the Department of Agriculture. Up on the hill, a large home is visible.**

struction as "farm residences." Reddoch stated that he sought to build the residence "to enable farm operations."

According to building permits provided by the Town of Sharon Building Department, Reddoch's construction plans include an approximately \$4.6 million home, \$980,000 pool house and \$350,000 garage.

Both Reddoch and the Bainbridges stated in correspondence with the DOA that they plan to allow their land to be farmed, though Reddoch did not specify who would be farming the land or the timeline for beginning farm operations.

According to Eddy, farmland preservation deeds do not "force the property owners to engage in farming practices," but require that land remains "available for farming."

"Available for farming means that we haven't plopped houses all over the place, we haven't stripped the topsoil off, we haven't negatively impacted the ability of that land to continue to be used for farming other than the footprint of the house," said Joan Nichols, executive director of the Connecticut Farm Bureau Association, a private membership-based nonprofit that advises the DOA on the preservation program.

Nichols explained that in its early stages, Connecticut's farmland preservation program was aimed at combatting the intense development pressures that came along with the 1980s' "boom of the subdivision movement."

### Preserving farmland

While the program bars multi-home and commercial development, State Representative Maria Horn (D-64) argued that its requirements aren't specific enough to preserve farmland in effect.

"Is it active agriculture? When does it start? Is it just somebody who mows their field once a year and calls it agriculture?" she said, referencing the 'available for agriculture' language. "It allows a little too much play in my view."

Horn has been working alongside Harding to engage the DOA, Attorney General's office, land trusts, and local constituents on the issue of the DOA's interpretation of the Paley easement.

Both lawmakers contend that the DOA's decision to approve construction ran afoul of the original intent of the easement, which Horn emphasized was at the expense of constituents' tax dollars. According to SLT Treasurer Allen Reiser, the state paid today's equivalent of about a million dollars to purchase Paley's development rights. Likewise, the state paid about \$300,000 to purchase Turkiewicz's development rights in 1986, equating to over \$800,000 today.

"Included in that calculation of the value of these easements is, what kinds of activities is it stopping?" said Horn. "And if this is all it meant, I think the government overpaid for these easements."

Horn emphasized that the easement interpretation debate is especially pertinent

as the state recently dedicated nearly \$10 million to the DOA to purchase additional agricultural easements.

Beyond taxpayer interests, Nichols noted that farmland protection measures are of particular concern for local farmers as farmland prices continue to soar in Connecticut. The more attractive protected farmland is to non-farming buyers, the more local farmers must struggle to compete for the same land, she explained.

"We need to protect not just the interests of the land, but the interests of the farmer," said Nichols, calling for further discourse among farmland protection stakeholders. "How do you make sure land stays in production and doesn't turn into someone's 60-acre lawn? That's the question we haven't answered yet."

Jennifer Dillon, SLT board president, underscored the Trust's hope in the Paley Farm court case decision to pave the way for more restrictive easement interpretations in the future.

"We're doing this because of the precedent as much as because of this individual case," Dillon said.

According to Horn, there's a high likelihood that as land under historic easements changes hands in the coming years, wealthy buyers will be looking to develop more homes using the same pathway as Reddoch and the Bainbridges.

"These are spectacular properties in a very desirable area," said Horn. "We better be prepared."

## GEER

Continued from Page A1

the original nursing home into 30 affordable residences similar to the one-bedroom apartments currently offered at Beckley House on campus.

"We were close to shovel ready," Powell said. "We started the design phase as the pandemic unfolded" and the quest to obtain HUD financing was underway. Supply chain issues, said the Geer administrator, raised the cost of the project by about 20%.

"HUD requires guaranteed maximum pricing," Powell said. "However, supply chain issues prohibited vendors from offering that, so the project became no longer feasible."

### Dispelling rumors of a sale

In recent years, Geer Village has downsized its assets, including the liquidation of most of its real estate holdings.

"Being a landlord is not the nature of our business," said Powell, noting that "the entire nursing home industry is in consolidation."

In fall of 2020, during the height of the pandemic, Geer also permanently shuttered its Adult Day Center after 42 years of providing seniors across Northwest Connecticut with an alternative to more expensive home care.

Powell dispelled recent rumors which surface periodically that Geer is looking to sell its operations.

"As of right now, Geer is not actively seeking to sell but is pursuing marketing collaboration to increase campus census and get the word out about available services," the Geer CEO explained.

The current campus census is in the 70% to 73% range, he said, slightly lower than the state average.

Connecticut's nursing home occupancy rate has been declining in recent years.

According to OPM statistics, after a sharp decrease

in occupancy from 2019 to 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the average nursing facility occupancy rate in Connecticut was 84% as of Sept. 30, 2023.

Future plans hinge on pending state report

Powell did not rule out the future possibility of a scaled-down renovation focusing on a reconfiguration of nursing home rooms and available beds at the circa 1969 facility.

"Connecticut is currently re-evaluating the geographic long-term bed capacity across the state," he said. "The results will in part drive ultimate bed capacity."

Future changes in bed capacity and/or major building modifications, he said, would require a new certificate from the state.

"Any structural changes would be confined to the current footprint of the building," he said.

At the time of Geer's \$22.5 million certificate, the nonprofit organization also received a \$2.2 million grant from the state OPM for design work on the original construction project.

According to OPM spokesman Chris Collibee, the Nonprofit Grant Program is 100% reimbursement based, so no entity receives funding for work not already completed.

"Geer was awarded \$2.2 million but only received \$802,343.61 and never drew down the remaining \$1,397,656.39," said Collibee. "That amount was unencumbered and part of the total \$35.5 million made available to fund Round 9 of NGP."

Geer Village is a nonprofit organization encompassing five 501(c)(3) entities: Geer Village Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Geer Village Lodge, Geer Village Corporation, Geer Village Beckley House and Geer Village Foundation.

## ROTARY CLUB

Continued from Page A1

founders' goal was "to find ways to help people."

He said since 1917 the Rotary Foundation has raised and donated some \$4 billion, with 91% of the money going to the stated cause or purpose. "We have very low overhead." Rotary International is known for its efforts to eradicate polio, starting with a vaccination program in the Philippines in 1979.

Chapell said the program was successful, so in 1985 Rotary International took it world-wide, providing 2.5 billion children with the polio vaccine since 1979.

This has reduced polio infections 99.9%, Chapell said. The two countries remaining on Rotary's list are Afghanistan and Pakistan, where political difficulties hamper such efforts.

Salisbury Rotary Club President Paul Ramunni said the club has done a lot of good work for Salisbury and environs, including scholarships for college and trade school.

Over the 75 years of the club's existence, it has raised and used over \$1 million.

"When you pile it up it's amazing," he said, citing donations to local food pantry, disaster relief, and donations to local nonprofits.

He read a list of names of club members from 1999. Several, including himself, were in the room.

"These are all people deeply embedded in the community."

He ended his remarks with an appeal for new members.

The club meets weekly. "It's only an hour," he said cheerfully. "It's therapeutic!"

## PUMPKIN RUN

Continued from Page A1

race, which began at noon.

It was hardly any time before William Sanders crossed the finish line in a blistering 25:29 minutes. A frequent winner and last year's champ as well, his 2024 time equates to a 5:09 per-mile pace.

The Pumpkin Run donates 20% of registration proceeds to The Jane Lloyd Fund, a Northwest Corner cancer patient relief effort.

Full results of the race can be found at [www.fasttrack-timing.com](http://www.fasttrack-timing.com)



PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

**Above, Start of the race. Right, William Sanders winning. Below, Anna Shields, winner of women's race. Left, Kathryn Brennan and kids in costume.**



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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

ART: JENNIFER ALMQUIST

The Creators:

## Sam Guindon's artistic palette

Painter Sam Guindon is an earnest young man who paints light with the skill of John Singer Sargent. Guindon's attention to technique harks back to an earlier time when artists studied under a master, learned anatomy, perspective, how to make their own pigment, and closely observed the work of great artists. Guindon has studied oil painting since he was nineteen. In a recent show of his paintings in his hometown of Norfolk, Connecticut, Guindon sold 40 of the 42 paintings he exhibited.

Guindon's sketchbooks are windows into his creative mind and a well-traveled life, packed with vignettes, ink drawings, observations and thoughts written in the margins. His subjects range from sketches done in gouache at the National Gallery, to ink drawings of vine-covered trees in Costa Rica, to the interior of an airplane drawn with the perspective of a fisheye lens, to colorful bottles of hot sauce. Currently Guindon is teaching art at the Compass Atelier in Maryland.

**The Creators Interview:**  
**Jennifer Almquist:** What are your plans after you come home to Norfolk this winter?

**Sam Guindon:** Picasso said, "There's no great art without great solitude." I plan to spend a year solo creating one thousand paintings on paper in Santa Fe, Norway, Costa Rica, and Ireland.

We went to Costa Rica, where my dad is from, for a year when I was in 3rd grade. I will be there for three months doing some work on our house this winter. I'm going to do some plein air (in the open air) painting in the jungle.

**JA:** Tell me your earliest memory of wanting to draw or paint. How old were you?

**SG:** My first memories are very illustrative, light-filled - as if they are paintings. The first drawings I did, when I was two, were very imaginative. I drew a lot of monsters as my earliest subjects. I liked drawing monsters because the anatomy is never incorrect. You have the freedom to just draw whatever you imagine.

**JA:** How have your



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Above, Norfolk painter Sam Guindon. At right, a selection of artwork created by Guindon.



paintings evolved?

**SG:** Only more recently did my art come around to being representative of anything. I guess it was more just a desire to create things, as opposed to capturing things. Now the desire to create has been fused with the desire to record the world. In that sense, especially with plein air paintings, you can capture your experience. I think the sketchbook is similar in that it's a record of my journey throughout the year.

**JA:** Your sketchbooks are wonderful. Where did you draw these?

**SG:** Those are copies from the National Gallery of different artists. The sketchbook has turned into half sketchbook/ half journal which is fun to look back on. It feels more lived in.

**JA:** When did you realize that you wanted to go to school for this?

**SG:** I went to a liberal arts school, Hamilton College. I was not sold on

being an art major. My mom told me when I was a kid that I should do something that I loved as a career. That pushed me to have the courage to study art.

**JA:** Did you have a teacher that influenced you?

**SG:** My advanced painting teacher was the first to introduce a more traditional kind of education. She had us do master studies, taught us about different pigments, their history, how you use them.

**JA:** What was your plan after college?

**SG:** Taking classes online through Compass. My teacher has changed the way I paint. He taught me how to mix color in a scientific way.

**JA:** In your recent show in Norfolk of smaller paintings, you sold out! How do you explain that success?

**SG:** The new paintings have a different feeling, a little more raw, more accessible. Before I had

only shown my studio work. I learn more about painting from these smaller, direct observation pieces.

**JA:** Your paintings are of everyday things like tractors and bulldozers, workshops, hydrants, and your own sneakers. What draws you to your subject matter?

**SG:** Those are my dad's tractors - they're

from Belarus. They are Soviet era and have a lot of personality. I remember as a kid working with these immensely powerful things that could crush you so easily. They are rusty, they misfire in the winter, they've got hydraulic leaks. If you're a kid who looks closely at things, they have meaning that other people don't feel or see.

It is a shame that we lose our child's eye, through which everything has meaning and beauty. That is something that I think about, finding a sort of equanimity by just finding beauty in uncelebrated things, quiet things.

**JA:** Did you like reading books when you were

*Continued on next page*



NorthEast-Millerton Library

### Annual Craft Fair

**Saturday, November 9**

10 am - 2 pm  
Rain or Shine  
28 Century Blvd., Millerton, NY

*Items are handmade by local crafters, artisans and artists.*

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Serving North Canaan, CT, Sheffield and South County, MA



PHOTO PROVIDED

Photographs from Thomas K. Levine will be on display at the Berkshire School.

PHOTOS: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

## Photography exhibit reaches back to 1800s

Three Centuries of Photography” from the collection of Thomas K. Levine will be on display at the Warren Family Gallery at the Berkshire School from Nov. 1 to Dec. 21. The exhibit features 75 original prints, spanning the history of photography from the 19th century to today. The opening reception is on Friday, Nov. 1, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Thomas Levine, a former Paramount Pictures executive and father of a Berkshire School junior, brings together works by renowned photographers like Carleton Watkins, Julia Margaret Cameron, Alfred Stieglitz, Diane Arbus, and Richard Misrach. The show includes landscapes, portraits, and a recent focus on vintage images of notable historical figures, including Winston Churchill, Mar-

tin Luther King Jr., and George Harrison.

“I’ve always been interested in all kinds of visual media,” said Levine who also acts as a consultant to The Triplex in Great Barrington. “In my prior life I worked in the film business as an executive so photography seems like a natural extension of my interest in film,” Levine explained.

The exhibit will be curated by teacher and art department chair Paul Banevicius with Levine’s assistance and aims to offer “the community at large” a rare opportunity to experience this extensive and diverse collection. “It’s an opportunity to see a lot disparate work in one setting,” said Levine.

Opening is Nov. 1 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Gallery hours are Monday to Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by appointment.

MUSIC: ALEC LINDEN

## Norfolk Library hosts traditional Japanese flautists

The Norfolk Library hosted a unique shakuhachi performance on Sunday, Oct. 27 from expert players Kod Araki VI and Ralph Samuelson.

The shakuhachi is a bamboo Japanese flute which originated in Buddhist temples as a meditation tool in the 17th century. Araki is one in a long line of shakuhachi masters — his given name is Hanzabur after his great-great-grandfather who is a legendary figure in the instrument’s history, and who made the instrument Araki played on Sunday.

The name he performs under — Kod — is a professional title that designates the head of the family’s shakuhachi guild, which is the oldest in Japan. Araki inherited the name at his father’s retirement in 2009.

Eileen Fitzgibbons, events coordinator at the Norfolk Library, emphasized to the crowd that this would be an unusual and rare performance while introducing the performers. “I feel so honored that this music will grace our walls,” she said.

The instrument itself is deceptively dynamic, at times bold and commanding while other times fluttering and delicate. The music was distinctly somber and



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Araki and Samuelson performed at Norfolk Library Sunday, Oct. 27.

contemplative, consisting of long, drawn out tones and lilting melodies, accented by occasional flutters and trills.

The duo played five pieces, consisting of traditional pieces composed by monks known as honkyoku and several of Araki’s own compositions. The titles of the works were uniformly naturalistic, evoking deer bleating in the forest and leaves fluttering down on a cold evening.

“All the best Japanese music seems to be composed about the

autumn,” Araki said.

Araki noted that the shakuhachi tradition is unique in that “it’s not musical in origin,” but rather is rooted in Buddhist meditation practices. The instrument became musically popular in the mid-18th century in large part due to Araki’s great-great grandfather Kod II, he said, who fought to

preserve the tradition when the instrument was outlawed during the Meiji Restoration.

Araki is based near Seattle, but has performed at the Norfolk Library several times before, and expressed his gratitude to the Library for hosting the performance. He said he’ll be back with Samuelson “whenever they’ll have us.”

### ADVERTISE IN COMPASS

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## ...Creators

little?

**SG:** I loved reading books, especially fantasy. In Costa Rica life is slow, so we spent a lot of time just reading from the old library, and drawing. I love Percy Jackson and Tintin. I just learned Andy Warhol and Herge, the author of Tintin, were good friends!

**JA:** Do you like the paintings of John Singer Sargent?

**SG:** He was one of the painters that got me into this. He’s the gateway drug to more traditional painters. It is cool to see his sketches because you can see the artist’s hand. He was good at showing you what he wanted you to see in his paintings.

**JA:** Your favorite artists?

**SG:** Jeremy Mann, Mark Boedges, Richard Schmid, Antonio Lopez Garcia, Rackstraw Downes, Quang Ho, George Bellows, Camille Corot, Gustave Caillebotte, Peter Paul Rubens, and Franz Kline.

**JA:** Do you dream in paintings?

**SG:** If I am working on a painting intensely, or drawing, then I will



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Work from Sam Guindon’s sketchbook.

dream about it.

**JA:** There is much creative shorthand in the world now, using artificial intelligence,

digital cameras, or 3D printing. Your ability to

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<b>CONCLAVE</b>	Sat. Nov 2 @ 6:30 PM Meet the Filmmakers <b>CATHY &amp; HARRY</b> with panel Q&A conducted by <b>JOHN YAU</b>
<b>HERE</b>	
<b>WE LIVE IN TIME</b>	
<b>THE OUTRUN</b> [First Friday Film Club, Nov 1 @ 12 PM]	Wed. Nov 6 @ 6:30 PM & Sun. Nov. 10 @ 1:30 PM Exhibition on Screen <b>VAN GOGH: POETS &amp; LOVERS</b>
<b>BOOK A PRIVATE EVENT</b> <a href="mailto:info@themoviehouse.net">info@themoviehouse.net</a>	

48 MAIN STREET, MILLERTON, NY

Continued from previous page

paint, using your mind and your hands, is going to be an increasingly rare skill. Will you resist the ease of modern forms of image creation?

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# COMPASS

FILM: MIKE COBB

## Covering Conflict: documentary film series at The Norfolk Library (part one)

In commemoration of Veterans Day, the Norfolk Library is hosting a short series of documentary films called "Covering Conflict - Journalists on the Ground". The first film, "Dateline Saigon," will be shown on Friday, Nov. 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. with an introduction and Q&A by Mark Erder.

Directed by Thomas D. Herman and narrated by Sam Waterston, the film tells the inspiring story of a small group of Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists including David Halberstam, Neil Sheehan, Malcolm Browne, Peter Arnett, and the photojournalist Horst Faas, who fought to report a truth that was vastly different from the rosy White House version during the early years of the Vietnam War.

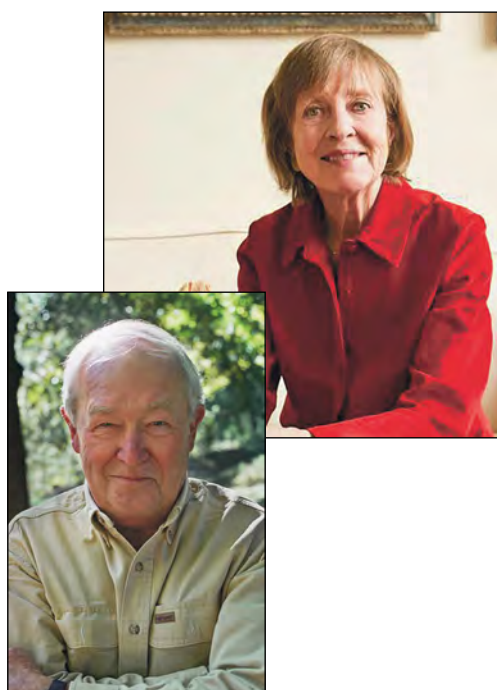
Dateline-Saigon is Herman's directorial debut. Previously, Herman was a co-producer of the Emmy-award winning feature film Live From Baghdad starring Michael Keaton and Helena Bonham-Carter. Before that, Herman was a freelance producer for CNN as well as a correspondent for National Public Radio.

Herman received a BA with honors from the University of Pennsylvania and continued his education at Harvard, Oxford, and Northeastern Universities.

When he's in between films, Herman practices law in Boston. "Being a lawyer helps me pay the bills while I pursue my passion, filmmaking," he says.

Co-producer of Dateline Saigon Bestor Cram, served as a Marine Lieutenant in Vietnam from 1968-69. What Cram witnessed stood in contrast to the official White House account.

"The White House lie that the war was going well was part of ever-increasing propaganda. Military officials believed I had become a traitor by joining the anti-war movement, both while I was in the mili-



PHOTOS PROVIDED

**"Dateline Saigon" will be followed by a Q&A with Jim Sterba and Francis Fitzgerald at Norfolk Library Nov. 8**

tary and after I had been honorably discharged, and for my work with VVAW (Vietnam Veterans Against The War). They expressed concerns that I was abetting the enemy. I represented a fundamental challenge to their belief structure," Cram says.

An established producer, director, and cinematographer of non-fiction films for television and museums, Cram helped Herman develop the story line for Dateline Saigon.

"Tom Herman and I worked together in shaping the narrative structure and editorial approach that shaped what the film is today. We worked on keeping the focus on the early reporting of the war as it became a foundational lens in which the press continued to reveal the 'ground truth'. The archival material reflects the ideas and stories the journalists offered in their interviews. Although they are recollections, the eloquent capacity of each of the journalists reveals their intimate experience of bearing witness," Cram says.

Dateline Saigon will be followed by a Q & A with Jim Sterba and Francis Fitzgerald, moderated by Mark Erder. Sterba has been a war and national correspondent for more than four decades, first for The New York Times and

then for The Wall Street Journal. As a 26 year old journalist covering the war in Vietnam in 1969, he realized he was witnessing a reality greatly from the official US military narrative.

"As the newest of four New York Times reporters, I attended daily briefings and wrote the daily war story. I attributed to US and South Vietnam briefers what they told us. I also reported what dissidents in the military and elsewhere told me," he says.

"Gradually, as I got to spend more time in the field, my skepticism grew. Nixon's 'Vietnamization' program was kicking in, turning the war over to South Vietnamese units, but hundreds of US troops were dying weekly, mostly draftees," he adds.

After two years covering the war on the ground, Sterba grew more skeptical of US foreign policy. He reflects on how press coverage affected public opinion and how that contrasts from the access journalists are granted today.

"Reporters had great freedom in Vietnam. We could go anywhere, unescorted, hitchhike on helicopters and airplanes, and were welcomed, especially by combat troops, to see for ourselves. No censorship whatsoever. The military would try to shape stories by putting

out their versions, often sanitized, but that didn't stop us. After Vietnam the Pentagon clamped down, restricting access, requiring escorts, delaying sending stories out of the war zone," Sterba says.

Francis Fitzgerald, who is married to Sterba, received the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, and the Bancroft Prize for her first

book "Fire in the Lake: the Vietnamese and the Americans in Vietnam" (1972).

At the age of 25, Fitzgerald went to Vietnam in 1966 and returned twice in the early 1970s. As a freelance writer, she did not have to adhere to official briefings, known as "the five o'clock follies" for their overly positive tone.

"Having read Bernard Fall, Jean Lacouture and other French writers, I began as a skeptic. Witnessing the destruction of the villages and the horrifying casualties at Vietnamese civilian hospitals, I ended up passionately anti-war," Fitzgerald says.

"Fire in the Lake" was the first major history of Vietnam and American involvement by an American author. It explores Vietnamese history and culture and argues that the lack of understanding by the U.S. military ultimately doomed American efforts.

"I never understood

why Johnson et al put such faith in the domino theory, except they seemed to know nothing about the different cultures and world-views in Thailand, Cambodia and Indonesia," Fitzgerald says.

In her book, Fitzgerald argued that American values were incompatible with Vietnam's values, culture, agrarian economy, and long history of warfare with France and China.

Regarding the role of journalists and the resurgence of authoritarianism today, Fitzgerald says, "Journalists shape opinion as much now as in Vietnam, but the Middle East is much more difficult for them to cover. Many have died since the U.S.-Iraq war began, and some are dying now in the Gaza strip and in Lebanon. Demagogues and 'fake news' have always existed. The task for journalists has always been how to counter them."

To register, go to: [norfolklibrary.org/events](http://norfolklibrary.org/events)

## Craft and vendor sale to benefit Amenia Fire Company

On Saturday, Oct. 26, the firehouse in Amenia hosted a fall craft and vendor sale to benefit the Amenia Fire Co Auxiliary. Local makers, bakers, crafters, knitters, painters, jewelry makers, and creators of all kinds gathered inside the firehouse on Mechanic Street for some early holiday shopping fun. The event was organized by Amenia resident Stacie Wilson and was in place of the regular December craft fair.



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Shoppers enjoy the crafts fair in Amenia.

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## TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Items are printed as space permits. Submit calendar items to editor@lakevillejournal.com

### NOVEMBER 1

#### Hauntings in Connecticut

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org

Eastern CT Paranormal Society shares spooky stories. This event is from 5 to 7 p.m. on Nov. 1.

Register online.

#### Banned Book Club

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org

David M. Hunt Library's Banned Book Club will be discussing "To Kill A Mockingbird" by Harper Lee Nov. 1 at 4 p.m. Copies of the book are available at the library. This group is open to anyone high school aged and older.

#### First Friday Music

Congregational Church of Salisbury, 30 Main St. Salisbury, Conn.

The Congregational Church of Salisbury will present its monthly First Friday Music in the Meeting House on Friday, November 1 at 12:00p.m. at 30 Main Street, Salisbury. The Meeting House will open at 11:30 a.m. This month's program, David Baranowski will play an assortment of organ favorites appropriate for Halloween, including "Toccatina and Fugue in D minor" by Johann Sebastian Bach, and "Suite Gothique" by Léon Boëllmann. Free to the public.

### NOVEMBER 2

#### First Saturday Concert

Twelve Moons Coffee House, The Center on Main, 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn.

First Saturday concerts return to Twelve Moons in Falls Village Nov. 2 with Wanda Houston and the HBH Band. They play jazz but R&B, rock, country, gospel, musical theater, blues, and classical is in their soul, and you will hear it in their songs. Doors open at 6 p.m. with open mic performances beginning at 6:30 pm. The feature band will play from 8 to 9 p.m. Guests are welcome to bring their own dinner and beverage or enjoy the venue's light refreshments.

#### Falls Village Cannonball Run Nov. 2

The Ed McGuire Cannonball Run is Saturday, Nov. 2, starting and finishing in downtown Falls Village. The 5K (3.1 miles) race starts at noon with the firing of the cannon. Walkers start at 11:30 a.m. The race is co-Sponsored by the Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department and Shelly's Hair Salon. After the race an awards ceremony will be held on the town Green for all age groups. The entry fee is \$25. Register online at <https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/FallsVillage/IEd-McGuireMemorialCannonballRun>

#### Into the Light:

##### Photography + Painting

Yo Studio, 91 Main St., North Canaan, Conn. yostudioct.com

Francois Dischinger will unveil a new exhibit at Yo Studio titled "Into the Light: Photography + Painting." An opening reception will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2. The gallery opens early at noon.

#### Journey to Pine Ridge

Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. cornwalllibrary.org

On Nov. 2 at 2 p.m., Becky Hurlburt and Cay Hosterman, both veterans of previous trips to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, will talk about their experiences and show slides. Micki Nunn-Miller will share her extensive insight into the program, and there will be time for Q&A. Registration for the reception is at: [cornwalllibrary.org/events/](http://cornwalllibrary.org/events/)

#### Clarion Concerts

The Stissing Center, 2950 Church Street, Pine Plains, N.Y.

Anthony Trionfo (flute) and Albert Cano Smit (piano) will perform at the second Clarion Concerts of the 2024-2025 season, featuring works by diverse composers like Poulenc, Beach, Prokofiev, and more. The concert begins at 7 p.m.

#### Art Show Opening

Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. cornwalllibrary.org

The next art show at The Cornwall Library. "Illustrating the Chronicle, Sketching Cornwall's Stories Over the Years," runs from Nov. 2 through Dec. 28. With this show, the library celebrates the Cornwall Chronicle, arguably the monthly infusion of local news, humor, and event listings that binds the community together. Opening Reception is Nov. 2, from 5 to 7 p.m. Registration for the reception is at: [cornwalllibrary.org/events/](http://cornwalllibrary.org/events/)

#### Baked Potato Dinner

Winchester Center Congregational Church, 1 West Rd., Winchester Center, Conn.

Join Winchester Center Congregational Church Nov. 2 from 4 to 7 p.m. for the Baked Potato Dinner. Full servings cost \$10 and include one baked potato with your choice of butter, sour cream, chili, chives, bacon, cheese and broccoli (half serving \$5). Coleslaw, homemade desserts, beverages and gluten/dairy free options will be available. Bring your own container for take-out.

#### Peter Steiner: Paintings Collage Cartoons

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org

In November, the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village will host an exhibition of paintings, drawings, and collage by Peter Steiner. Known primarily for his cartoons and his novels, Steiner's paintings and drawings can be comic, surrealist, romantic, and fantastic—hence the title of the exhibition, "All Over the Place." A reception for the artist will take place at the library on Saturday, Nov. 2, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

### NOVEMBER 3

#### Book Talk

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibrary.org

Sunday, Nov. 3 at 4 p.m. there will be a book talk and demonstration with Jessie Sheehan, who will share recipes and treats from "Salty, Cheesy, Herby, Crispy Snackable Bakes: 100 Easy-Peasy Savory Recipes for 24/7 Deliciousness." Jessie will show us how to make hot pepper jelly and cream cheese stuffed muffins and there will be several treats to sample. Jessie's cookbook, full of gorgeous photos, will be available for signing and purchase, a perfect holiday or hostess gift. Register at [www.hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org](http://www.hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org)

#### Classic Film Series: Movie & Soup Night

Copake Grange, 628 Empire Road, Copake, N.Y.

Nov. 3 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This film, directed by Robert Benton, features an all-star cast

E	S	S	A	Y
S	T	E	A	M
L	A	S	E	R
F	A	R	E	S
R	A	K	E	S

### Word of the Week

Hints relate to adjacent five-letter words. Solve to reveal correct letters. Green tiles indicate correctly placed letters in the Word of the Week. Yellow tiles indicate a correct letter in the wrong place. Uncolored tiles indicate letters that do not appear in the WotW.


- Ice cream in root beer
- To long for, desire
- Live-in babysitter
- Elaborately decorated
- Trick or treat

including Sally Field, John Malkovich, Danny Glover, Ed Harris, Amy Madigan, and Lindsay Crouse. The film follows the newly widowed Edna, played by Sally Field, as she tries to keep her family farm from going under during the Great Depression in Texas. The film won Academy Awards for Best Actress for Field and Best Original Screenplay for Benton along with five other nominations.

Followed by a brief discussion and \$10 soup dinner to follow.

### NOVEMBER 4

#### Book Discussion: On Tyranny with Peter Kaufman

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org

Explore *On Tyranny* by Timothy Snyder on Nov. 4 from 4 to 5 p.m.

Register: [scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/13219924](http://scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/13219924)

### NOVEMBER 5

#### Salisbury Rotary Club Election Day Breakfast

Salisbury Congregational Church Fellowship Hall, Salisbury, Conn.

On Tuesday, Nov. 5 from 7 to 11 a.m., join the Salisbury Rotary Club for an Election Day Breakfast.

### NOVEMBER 6

#### Medicare 101 and 2025 Updates

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org

Learn Medicare changes with Sheri Wright on Nov. 6 from 2 to 3 p.m.

Register online.

#### Pet CPR & First Aid Class

Hunky Hound Handlers, 11 Railroad St., Canaan, Conn.

On Nov. 6 at 6:30 p.m., join Hunky Hound Handlers for a Pet CPR & First Aid Class, a highly interactive training featuring hands-on skills practice encompassing emergency muzzling, CPR (canine/feline), choking management (conscious and unconscious), bleeding control and more. Taught with a "real world" approach by a 30+ year seasoned pre-hospital emergency medical care provider and educator. Registration is required. [www.pawsnclaws911.com](http://www.pawsnclaws911.com)

### NOVEMBER 7

#### Finding Bigfoot

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org

Join producer, lead investigator and New Jersey native Mike Familant at the David M. Hunt Library on Thursday Nov. 7 at 5:30 p.m. as he shares his

experiences researching and tracking down the truth behind North America's most iconic cryptid, Bigfoot.

#### Salisbury READS: North Woods Discussion

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org

Final chance to discuss North Woods on Nov. 7 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Register: [scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/13246335](http://scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/13246335)

#### Speed Dating

Housatonic Brewery, 30 Kent Road, New Milford, Conn.

Seeking singles ages 45 and up to join a speed dating event starting at 7 p.m. at the Housatonic Brewery. Tickets are \$20 and all proceeds benefit NM Social Services Thanksgiving Fund. Contact [nmdatingforacause@gmail.com](mailto:nmdatingforacause@gmail.com) to RSVP.

### NOVEMBER 9

#### Family Fun! Pumpkin Smash!!

McEnroe Farm Market, 5409 Route 22, Millerton, N.Y.

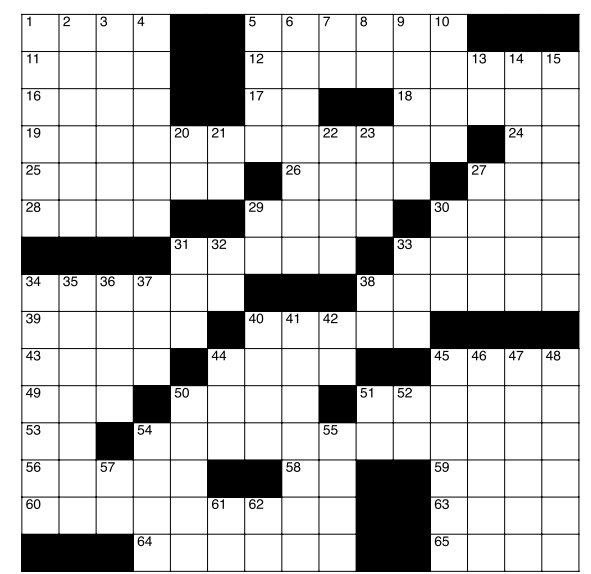
Bring your pumpkins to smash. Convert them to compost. Let's smash waste together! FREE cider donuts. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Rain Date: Sunday, November 10

## Brain Teasers

#### CLUES ACROSS

- Spumante (Italian wine)
- Highly impressed
- Pronoun to identify something specific
- Uttered in an impassioned way
- Outfits
- "Westworld" actor Harris
- Stewed game casserole
- Indignities inflicted on others
- Blood type
- Says beneath one's breath
- Taxis
- Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
- NFL great Randy
- Where college students live
- Brief Yankees sensation Kevin
- Condiment
- frutti
- Polish city
- Astronomy unit of distance
- Romanian village
- Bears first overall pick Williams
- Irritated
- Clothing for sale has them
- One-time world power
- When you anticipate arriving
- Farm building
- Organize thoughtfully
- Detective
- One who reduces
- Nursemaids
- Partner to "Pa"
- World's longest river
- Commemorates
- Compound
- The Lannisters and Starks fought for one
- Email function



- Milliliter
- Spread out from
- With two replaceable hydrogen atoms
- Respectful title for a man
- Equally
- Scarlett's home
- Big Blue
- Subway dwellers
- One-tenth of a liter
- Central European river
- Distress signal
- Expression of sympathy
- Bar bill
- Football equipment
- Dance music
- Russian river
- Mary \_\_, cosmetics
- Gym class
- Autos
- Fourth and honorable name in ancient Rome
- Defeats (abbr.)
- A way to color
- Planet
- Form of humor
- Taken without permission
- Go over again
- Auto parts manufacturer
- Detective's source
- Home of the Flyers
- Short official note
- Emit coherent radiation
- In the year of Our Lord
- Atomic #18
- Not from, but...

#### Oct. 24 Solution

C	B	S	A	M	T	R	A	K						
H	I	E	D	I	R	E	C	T						
B	C	A	A	R	L	I	N	E						
R	E	V	I	S	E	I	T	E	R	A	T	E		
A	R	I	S	E	N	T	O	W	O	A	T			
N	E	M	E	S	E	S	I	N	T	I	T	C	H	
			L	O	T	A	C	U	K	E				
A	D	S	Y	L	E	M	S	C	S	I	N			
L	A	M	P	I	D	E	A							
A	M	I	R	S	D	N	I	B	B	L	E	D		
M	O	L	O	K	A	I	L	E	A	N	E	R		
O	N	E	S	E	L	F	B	A	N	O	L	E		
			A	R	U	I	O	D	D	S				
			D	I	C	K	E	R	A	L	I			
			S	C	H	I	S	M	T	E	T			

#### Sudoku

7				1				
6			8	9				
3					6		5	
5	8						6	
			2					
	4							3
4	2	5			6		9	
				3	7	1		4

#### Oct. 24 Solution

4	3	8	6	2	1	7	9	5
6	1	5	3	9	7	4	2	8
2	7	9	8	5	4	6	3	1
3	4	1	5	7	8	9	6	2
5	6	7	9	1	2	8	4	3
8	9	2	4	6	3	5	1	7
9	2	6	1	8	5	3	7	4
1	5	3	7	4	6	2	8	9
7	8	4	2	3	9	1	5	6

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# Our Towns

## Walk-A-Thon returns for 20th year

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — Grade students of Cornwall Consolidated School trekked down the road Oct. 25 for the 20th Walk-A-Thon.

The annual fundraiser selects one organization to support each year in addition to raising money for eighth grade class trips. This year benefited the New York Marine Rescue Center.

Students, teachers, parents, pets and supporters from as far as Toronto, Ontario, gathered at Cream Hill Road to depart on one of three paths. The longest walk was about five miles.

CCS graduate Simon Markow, currently a Housatonic Valley Regional High School junior, was in attendance and recalled fond memories of the Walk-A-Thon.

“It was always the best day of the year because it’s like an



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

The student body of Cornwall Consolidated School gather beneath the Walk-A-Thon banner on Cheery Hill Road, Oct. 25.

unofficial race,” said Markow.

This year’s walk was the first in several years due to the pandemic.

Principal Leanne Maguire

said missing out on multiple Walk-A-Thons has put the current eighth-grade class behind in its fundraising goal.

“There are only five eighth graders this year and they need to raise \$8,000,” said Maguire on the Washington

D.C. trip costs.

Those looking to support the class can buy T-shirts at the school or participate in a new mascot naming contest. Tickets to enter a name for the CCS Coyote can be bought by contacting the school at (860) 672-6617.



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Charlotte Van Doren and Natalie Randall of the Cornwall Garden Club use power and hand tools to plant the bulbs.

## Garden Club plants 1,000 more bulbs

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — Expanding the daffodil garden in Cornwall Village between the library and Town Hall, four members of the Cornwall Garden Club planted 1,000 bulbs Saturday, Oct. 26.

Charlotte Van Doren, Natalie Randall, Stephana Bottom and Juliet Hubbard spent the better part of the day hard at work with both hand and power tools.

“The Village Improvement Society has provided all the bulbs for us,” said Van Doren, adding that funds were allocated from the town budget to support

the project.

The King Alfred and Mount Hold daffodils will add to the 1,000 bulbs that were planted last year in the same space. Van Doren said over the next few years the group intends to incrementally grow the garden.

The Cornwall Garden Club was founded during the pandemic and has begun to take on more public space projects in partnership with the town Beautification Committee.

“The idea here is to take a public space in Cornwall and ... make a place for people to gather that’s beautiful,” Van Doren said.

## Support families in Dominican Republic this holiday season

TORRINGTON — Local college student Sarai Cabral is collecting donations to support families in need in the Dominican Republic for Christmas.

Cabral has independently carried out the Christmas donation tradition herself for several years. She is now reaching

out to the community for additional support.

Basic needs baskets will be compiled and brought down in December. Toys will be distributed to children. Financial donations preferred.

For more information or to donate, contact Cabral at (203) 525-8857.

## Housatonic class of 1975 starts reunion planning

FALLS VILLAGE — Members of the 1975 graduating class of Housatonic Valley Regional High School are starting to get organized for a 50th class reunion.

Meetings are going to be held the third Sunday of each month via ZOOM at 7 p.m.

Class members who have not done so, are asked to forward all their information, i.e. email address, mailing address, and a phone number to Linda Amerighi at mydals101@gmail.com. To join the ZOOM meeting, contact Bruce Palmer at bpalmer@verizon.net.

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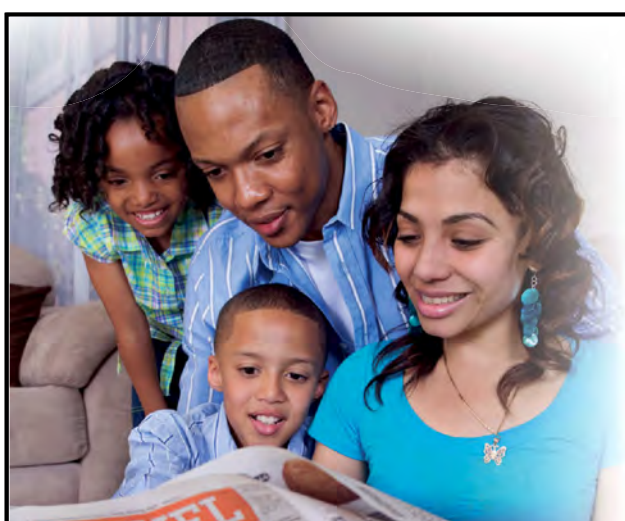
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