



CELEBRATING  
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Special Banner, Pages A8-10

# The Lakeville Journal

Small Business Spotlight, Page A2

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

## Hydrilla Menace

# State adjusts boating fees to combat invasive weeds

By Debra A. Aleksinas

SALISBURY — Last January, the Twin Lakes Association submitted a grant request for \$75,000 in matching funding to the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection's Aquatic Invasive Species grant program to cover soaring lake management costs in its battle with invasive hydrilla.

That funding was awarded for the 2024 season using fees collected from boaters and deposited into a "Connecticut Lakes, Rivers and Ponds Preservation Account."

The program distributes funds through a competitive grant process to state and municipal agencies, as well as nonprofit organizations, to conduct research, provide public education and enhance awareness about the threat from aquatic invasive species.

Since 2020, the program has been funded with fees paid through boat registrations for an annual Aquatic Invasive Species Stamp, also known as an "AIS Stamp."

Last October, however, the fee was eliminated from registrations and now anyone operating a vessel on Connecticut's inland waters must separately purchase one of two stamps or decals through DEEP's Sportsmen Licensing System.

### 'Important update' from the state

Last week, the state environmental protection agency's boating division issued an "Important



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

**The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection reminds boaters that the Aquatic Invasive Species Stamp is no longer included in their vessel registration and must be purchased separately.**

update" asking lake, pond, river and environmental groups to share information about the recent AIS stamp changes heading into the 2025 boating season.

"These updates aim to strengthen the fight against the spread of invasive species, and we want to ensure that all boaters are informed and prepared," said Gwendolyn Flynn, environmental analyst for DEEP's bureau of Outdoor Recreation-Boating Division.

Referring to the updated law enacted last fall, "The U.S. Coast Guard informed us that the addi-

tional fee added to the vessel registration was in conflict with Federal law," Flynn explained. "We are hopeful that this process generates similar or greater revenue for the AIS Stamp grant program."

Grant Bogle, president of the Twin Lakes Association, noted that his lake group has been a recipient of several grants over the years and that it "greatly appreciates" the support of the state.

The program, he said, "is vital to support efforts on behalf of local

See BOATING, Page A10

# Wake Robin Inn developers to revise plan before reapplying

By Alec Linden

LAKEVILLE — Representatives of Aradev LLC, the developer behind the proposed Wake Robin Inn expansion, returned to the Zoom room for the Jan. 21 meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission to discuss preapplication details.

The meeting marked the firm's first reappearance since withdrawing an application in December after six rounds of contentious public hearings.

After closing the hearings, which saw neighbors air concerns about noise, traffic, sewer capacity, and the general inappropriateness of the development in the residential neighborhood, P&Z met to deliberate the application before voting on a decision. During that Dec. 12 meeting, four out of five members said they would likely deny the application in a vote,



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

**Wake Robin Inn developers Aradev LLC discussed reapplying for a special permit to redevelop the Inn at a Tuesday, Jan. 21, P&Z meeting.**

prompting Aradev to withdraw before the Commission had a chance to issue a denial.

At the Jan. 21 meeting, Aradev attorney Josh Mackey sought guidance from the Commission on how best to amend their application so

See WAKE ROBIN, Page A10

# Executive order halts shift in federal recognition process for indigenous tribes

By Alec Linden

KENT — A rule passed in January that may allow the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation to reapply for federal acknowledgment is now on pause due to an inauguration day regulatory freeze issued by President Trump.

The executive order states, "any rules that have been published in the Federal Register, or any rules that have been issued in any manner but have not taken effect, for the purpose of reviewing any questions of fact, law, and policy that the rules may raise," will be postponed for 60 days.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, a federal agency within the Department of Interior, published a rule on Jan. 15 which "revises the regulations governing the process through which the Secretary [of the Interior] acknowledges an Indian Tribe, creating a conditional, time-limited opportunity to re-petition for federal acknowledgement," according to the Federal Register.

The regulation was scheduled

to take effect on Feb. 14, but is now held for the 60 day review period by the new administration.

President Trump has nominated former North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum as Secretary of the Interior, who would replace Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Interior under President Biden and an enrolled member of the Laguna Pueblo tribe. If Burgum is confirmed in the position, which he is expected to be, the DOI will be under his control as it oversees the review of the re-petition rule.

The DOI has held an express ban on re-petitioning since a 1994 revision of the regulations surrounding federal acknowledgement. The ban was upheld in a 2015 revision, with the DOI citing issues of efficiency, timeliness and fairness to other petitioners who have not yet been reviewed as reasons to maintain the ban.

Two cases brought by former petitioners in 2020 challenged the 2015 ruling and were upheld in their federal district courts, en-

See SCHAGHTICOKE, Page A10

# Honeychurch Home moving to Lenox, Mass.

By Robin Roraback

SALISBURY — Honeychurch Home in downtown Salisbury will be closing its doors and moving to Lenox, Massachusetts soon.

Honeychurch's owner, Carolyn Piccirelli, said, "The Salisbury shop will most likely close in mid-February or end of February at the latest. We are having a huge moving sale and each week an extra 10% reduction is added on top of the sale prices. When we are close to being out of items, we will then close."

Honeychurch Home opened

in Salisbury five years ago and has been a staple of Salisbury shops since then. It is known for its unique and "thoughtfully designed" items for the home that are "created out of materials of the highest quality." Products at Honeychurch range from apothecary items such as hand wash and hand lotions, diffusers and perfums, to all kinds of candles and candle holders to beautiful sweaters and dresses, baskets, books, bookends, table linens, wall décor, flowers, throws and many decorative and gift items.

Piccirelli recently made a journey to Paris to buy items for the store. "We go straight to the original artisans throughout Europe to

See HONEYCHURCH, Page A10



PHOTO BY ANNE DAY

**Carolyn Piccirelli of Honeychurch Home faces the upcoming move to Lenox with mixed emotions. "It was a bittersweet decision to leave our shop location in Salisbury," she said. But she looks forward to the larger space in Lenox and plans to expand the products Honeychurch offers.**



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# Our Towns

## In The Journal this week

OUR TOWNS..... A2-5 COMPASS ..... B1-4  
 LEGALS .....A2 CALENDAR .....B4  
 OBITUARIES .....A5 OUR TOWNS.....B5  
 OPINION.....A6 CLASSIFIEDS.....B5  
 VIEWPOINT .....A7 SPECIALIST .....B6

### Online This Week

#### Varsity basketball coverage

HVRHS boys win back-to-back games. Gilbert's star reaches 2,000 points. More at lakevillejournal.com

## Salisbury Central School plans for kindergarten registration

Salisbury Central School Kindergarten pre-registration for the 2025-26 school year is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 26, Tuesday, Feb. 27, and Wednesday, March 11.

Bring your child's birth certificate to confirm the date of birth and a current record of childhood immunizations.

Because of new Connecticut legislation, Public Act 23-

208, Section 1, children must turn five before Sept. 1 to be eligible to enroll in kindergarten. If your child turns five between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, they will be eligible to enroll in the early-kindergarten program at Salisbury Central School.

Please call Pat in the school office at (860) 435-9871 to schedule an appointment.

## Sharon Center School sets kindergarten registration dates

Sharon Center School Kindergarten pre-registration for the 2025-26 school year is scheduled for Feb. 28 and March 7.

Bring your child's birth certificate to confirm the date of birth and a current record of childhood immunizations.

Because of new Connecticut legislation, Public Act 23-208, Section 1, children must turn five before Sept. 1 to be eligible to enroll in kindergarten. If your child turns five between Sept. 1 to Dec. 31, they will be eligible to enroll in the early-kindergarten program at Sharon

Center School.

For info, please contact Kim Robinson at (860) 364-5153 or email krobins@sharoncenterschool.org

*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.*

#### Domestic violence arrest in North Canaan

At approximately 7 a.m. on Jan. 18, troopers responded to an active disturbance in North Canaan. They took the accused, Ryan Sherman, 33, of Canaan into custody for domestic violence. Sherman was processed at Troop B for C.G.S. 53a-182 Disorderly Conduct, and was released on a \$1,500 non-surety bond. Sherman was scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court.

#### Drive-thru disturbance

At approximately 1 p.m. on Jan. 19 troopers were called to the North Canaan McDonald's on reports of an active disturbance. Witnesses stated that the accused, William Blais, 68, of Bronxville, New York, became agitated while waiting in the drive-thru line, getting out of his car and banging on the window of another vehicle while yelling. Blais was issued a misdemeanor summons for violating C.G.S.

## POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

53a-181 Breach of Peace in the 2nd degree. He is scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court on Jan. 31.

#### Tipping groceries cause rear-end

Miranda Rhyne, 40, of Hudson, New York, was driving west on Main Street in Salisbury on Jan. 20 when a Honda Pilot collided with the rear of her Hyundai Tucson. The driver of the Pilot, George Kaye, 49, of Copake, New York, stated that he had had turned to look at the passenger seat as his groceries were falling, and

didn't see Rhyne's vehicle slowing ahead. There were no injuries, but the Pilot was towed from the scene. Kaye was issued a written warning for violation of C.G.S. 12-240(b\*) Failure to Drive a Reasonable Distance Apart by Motor Vehicle, Resulting in Motor Vehicle Accident.

#### Pickup collides with Patco building

On Jan. 24 at approximately 3 p.m., Kayla Mathers, 41, of Wingdale, New York, was in a Ford F-150 navigating towards a parking space at the Patco Mobile gas

station in Lakeville. Upon approaching the parking space, Mathers didn't stop and crashed into the building. Mathers was suspected to have sustained minor injuries, but declined treatment. The F-150 sustained functional damage.

*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 john@lakevillejournal.com*

# Small Business SPOTLIGHT

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• Sharon Lawn & Landscape

## LEGAL NOTICES

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**TAX COLLECTOR**  
**TOWN OF**  
**SALISBURY CT**  
 Pursuant to Sec 12-145 of the Connecticut State Statutes, the taxpayers of the Town of Salisbury are hereby notified the third installment of the Grand List October 1, 2023 is due and payable January 1, 2025. Pursuant to Section 12-71b of the Connecticut State Statutes, the Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax is due on January 1, 2025. Payments must be received or postmarked by February 3, 2025. If said Real Estate, Personal Property and Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes are not paid on or before February 3, 2025, interest at the rate of 1% (18% per year) will be added for each month from the time when such tax becomes due and payable until paid. Minimum interest \$2.00.  
 Mail to: Tax Collector, P.O. Box 338, Salisbury, CT 06068 or at Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9am-4pm (Closed for lunch 12:30-1:30) or use the drop box located in the vestibule of the Town Hall, 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday. You may pay by E-Check or Credit Card at [www.salisbw.yct.us](http://www.salisbw.yct.us). Click blue tab View/Pay Taxes. A fee is charged. Dated at Salisbury CT this 11th day of December 2024.

Jean F. Bell  
 CCMC Tax Collector  
 Salisbury CT 06068  
 12-19-24  
 01-09-25  
 01-23-25

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**TOWN OF KENT**  
 The second installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property and the Motor Vehicle Supplemental tax for the Grand List of 2023 is due and payable January 1, 2025. The second installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicle Supplemental tax for the Grand List of 2023 will become delinquent on Tuesday, February 4, 2025. As soon as the tax becomes delinquent, it shall be subject to interest at the rate of 1.5% per month from January 1, 2025 until the same is paid. Bills may be viewed and paid online by going to the Tax Collector's page on the Town of Kent website at [www.townofkentct.org](http://www.townofkentct.org). There are two options for online payment: credit card or electronic check. The Tax Collector's office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. There is a red drop box next to the front door of the Town Hall for payments. Payments are also welcome through

the mail at P. O. Box 311, Kent, Connecticut 06757.  
 Deborah Devaux CCMC  
 Tax Collector  
 12-19-24  
 01-09-25  
 01-23-25

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**TOWN OF CANAAN**  
 Pursuant to Sec. 12-145 of the Connecticut statutes, the Tax Collector, Town of Canaan gives notice that she will be ready to receive Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes and the 2nd installment of Real Estate & Personal Property taxes due January 1, 2025 at the Canaan Town Hall, PO Box 47, 108 Main St., Falls Village, CT 06031.  
 Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00-12:00. Payments must be received or postmarked by February 3, 2025 to avoid interest. All taxes remaining unpaid after February 3, 2025 will be charged interest from January 1, 2025 at the rate of 1.5% for each month from the due date of the delinquent tax to the date of payment, with a minimum interest charge of \$2.00. Sec. 12-146 Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the taxpayer of their responsibility for the payment of taxes or delinquent charges. Sec. 12-30  
 Rebecca Juchert-Derungs,

CCMC  
 12-19-24  
 01-02-25  
 01-23-25

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
**TOWN OF SALISBURY**  
**February 5th, 2025**  
**7:30pm**  
 The Annual Town Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings in the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut, will be held in-person and via Zoom (hybrid) on Wednesday, February 5th, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. for the following purposes:  
 1. To receive and act upon the report of the Town Officers and to recognize the Town Report dedication.  
 2. To receive and act upon the audited financial report from the Chairman of the Board of Finance and Treasurer of the Town for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, which is available for inspection at the Town Hall.  
 3. 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. In the case of a multi-unit development, residential or commercial, the hook-up charge will be \$5,000 for each unit of such development."  
 4. To approve the transfer

of up to \$450,000 from the Town's undesignated surplus fund for replacement of existing windows at the Town Hall.  
 Dated at Salisbury, Connecticut this 17th day of January, 2025.  
 Curtis G. Rand,  
 First Selectman  
 Christian E. Williams,  
 Selectman  
 Katherine Kiefer,  
 Selectman  
 01-23-25  
 01-30-25

**Notice of Decision**  
**Town of Salisbury**  
**Planning & Zoning**  
**Commission**  
 Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on January 21, 2025:  
 Approved with the Condition that an A2 As-Built Survey be Provided - Site Plan Application #2025-0273 by Jones Construction, for a second story addition over an existing attached garage in the Lake Protection Overlay District in accordance with section 404 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 69 as Lot 29 and is located at 85 Preston Lane, Salisbury. The owners of the property are Nathaniel and Laura Kirk.  
 Any aggrieved person

may appeal these decisions to the Connecticut Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes §8-8.  
 Town of Salisbury  
 Planning &  
 Zoning Commission  
 Martin Whalen, Secretary  
 01-30-25

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**ESTATE OF**  
**ALEXANDRA**  
**MCCLELLAND**  
**Late of West Cornwall**  
**(24-00521)**  
 The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated January 14, 2025, 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:  
 Duncan McClelland  
 c/o Andrea Doyle Asman  
 Litwin Asman, PC  
 1047 Bantam Road  
 P.O. Box 698  
 Bantam, CT 06750  
 Megan M. Foley  
 Clerk  
 01-30-25

# Our Towns

## Conservationists and housing advocates collaborate in new report

By Alec Linden

The Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity has published its Northwest Connecticut Affordable Housing and Conservation Strategy, an initiative meant to organize affordable housing development and critical conservation practices as joint objectives in the Northwest Corner.

Partnering with Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative, a local land protection coalition comprised of land trusts and community leaders, LCCHO invited representatives from the towns of Salisbury, Canaan, Norfolk, Sharon, Cornwall, Goshen, Kent and Warren to discuss actions and strategies within their towns to support conservation and affordable housing efforts in tandem. The group of over 60 participants representing over 40 towns and organizations met

six times between February and September of 2024 before releasing the Strategy, according to the recently released document.

The purpose statement of the project argues that “cross sector and regional collaboration among town governments, housing organizations and conservation organizations is vital to achieving our affordable housing and conservation goals.”

The strategy joins adjacent regional efforts to prioritize conservation and affordable housing as conjunctive goals, such as the Hudson Valley Alliance for Housing and Conservation. Smaller efforts abound as well, as in a recent collaboration between the Pioneer Valley nonprofit Kestrel Land Trust and national NGO The Community Builders to develop affordable units among a small portion of a large, ecologically-rich parcel

in Easthampton, Massachusetts, as reported by Audubon Magazine.

The guidelines for housing outlined in the report are informed by each town’s Affordable Housing Plan, meant to direct the next five-years’ development. The plans include 205 proposed homes across the eight towns involved in the initiative.

The conservation guidance informing the strategy are derived from the Housatonic Valley Association’s Follow the Forest Initiative, which seeks to protect ecological connectivity amongst the woodlands spanning from Northwest Connecticut and the Hudson Valley up through Vermont and into eastern Canada. The Strategy emphasizes keeping this corridor intact: the LCCHO Strategy reports that these forests comprise “the most intact deciduous and mixed forest region on Earth,” and that “without strategic focus,

the connectivity of this massive corridor will be broken.”

Notably, the group also states that “important to our collaborative work, it is conceivable that undeveloped parcels need not be conserved in their entirety in order to maintain the integrity of core forests and their connectivity.”

A key element of the Strategy is a mapping tool developed by the HVA’s GIS Manager Stacy Deming which identifies parcels within the involved eight towns that are suitable to collaborative affordable housing development and conservation efforts.

Further information, including fundraising guides, mapping tools and data resources can be found at the Strategy’s webpage [thehousingcollective.org](http://thehousingcollective.org), navigating to the the Northwest Connecticut Affordable Housing and Conservation Strategy under “Impact.”



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

The 4,572 square foot commercial building at 5 Bridge St. — home of Kent Wine & Spirit — was sold in December in a private transfer for \$560,000.

## Catching up with Kent real estate

By Christine Bates

December

KENT — By the end of January there were five single family homes in Kent for sale, each for over a million dollars as more affordable houses were snapped up quickly while seven-digit properties linger on the market.

November

41 Johnson Road — 2 bedroom/2.5 bath home sold by Virginia Giles and Rita Kho to Joshua Merrill and Michele Sepples for \$340,000.

268 Kent Cornwall Road — 4 bedroom/2 bath antique home in need of renovation on 4.4 acres sold by Patricia Rimany to Jollanda Persaud and Seth Sgorbati for \$350,000.

96 Kent Road — 3 bedroom/1 bath house plus 1 bedroom/1 bath cottage sold privately by Michael A. and Bryan K. Hagley to Dakota R. and Haley R. Geoffroy for \$300,000.

5 Bridge St. — a commercial retail building with 4,527 square feet sold privately by 105 Stonehouse Consultants Inc. to BCNU LLC for \$560,000.

368 Kent Cornwall Road — 3 bedroom/1.5 bath home on 2.4 acres sold by David Grusauski Executor of the Estate of Mary C. Grusauski to Scott Joseph Barrie and Katherine Startup Barrie for \$420,000.

181 Segar Mountain Road — 2 bedroom/2 bath colonial style home on 5 acres sold by David Dolan Executor Estate of Sandra Jennings to Kimberly Compton for \$460,000.

\*Town of Kent real estate sales recorded as sold between Sept. 1, and Dec. 31, 2024, provided by the Kent Town Clerk. Property details provided in town tax cards. Note that recorded transfers occur after the actual real estate closing and will also include private sales. Current market activity from Smart MLS. Transfers with no consideration are not included. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Advisor with William Pitt Sotheby’s International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.



PHOTO PROVIDED

## Trooper Spencer Bronson returns as North Canaan resident trooper

By Riley Klein

NORTH CANAAN — Trooper Spencer Bronson has returned to the position of resident trooper in North Canaan, a role he held most recently in 2022.

Bronson replaced outgoing resident trooper, Jeremy Ribadeneyra. North Canaan First Selectman Brian Ohler said the change took effect Jan. 24.

“We wish [Bronson] the best of luck and continued safety,” said Ohler. “Heartfelt thanks and deepest appreciation to Trooper First Class Jeremy Ribadeneyra for his selfless and dedicated service to the Town of North Canaan.”

Bronson is a five-year veteran of the Connecticut State Police and worked in the Department of Corrections for nine years.

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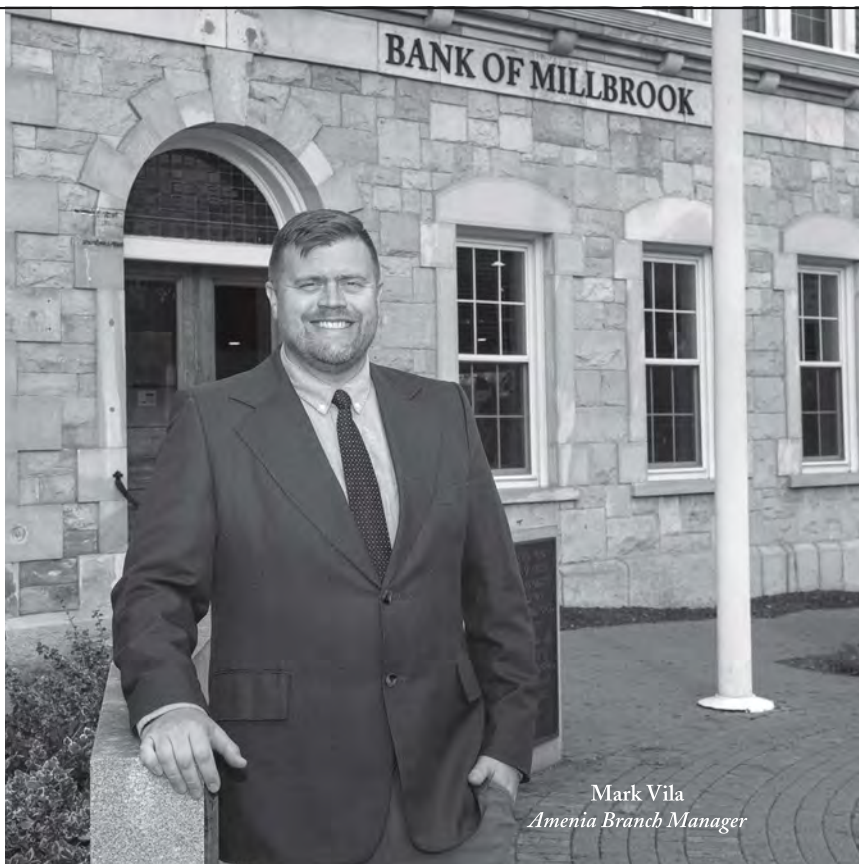
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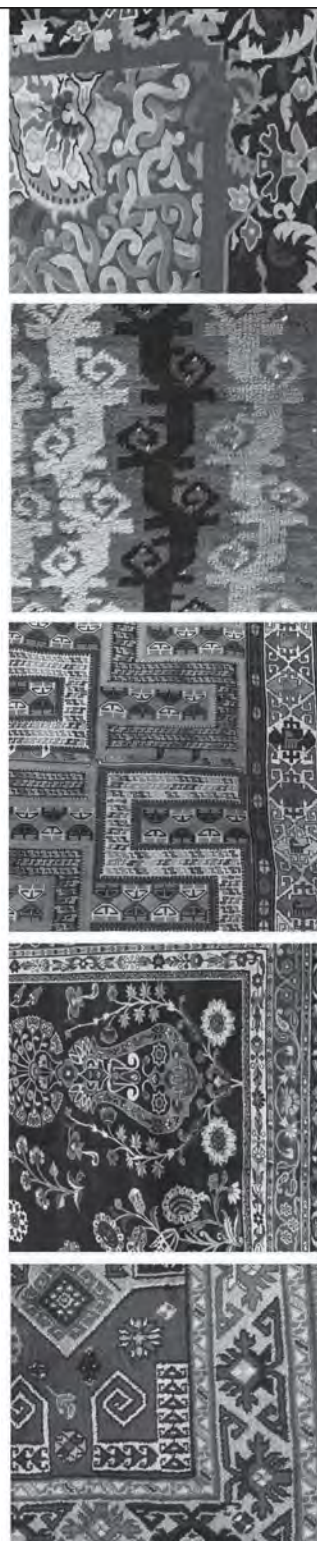
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## Cornwall reviews POCD progress

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — Halfway through the town's 10-year plan, officials and volunteers of Cornwall's town government gathered at Town Hall Jan. 22 to discuss accomplishments of the past five years and goals for the next.

The evening was hosted by the Planning and Zoning Commission, which provided a color-coded packet informing guests of the goals laid out in the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD).

In addition to elected and appointed officials, community members in attendance represented the organizations that benefit Cornwall including the Cornwall Association, Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department, Cornwall Library and the Food and Fuel Fund to name a few.

P&Z Chair Anna Timell introduced the goals of the session with a bit of history on the POCD in Connecticut. She explained how town plans have evolved over the decades from a collection of hand drawn maps in the 1980s to a thorough, living document with community-driven goals.

"Town plans represent the quintessential democratic process," said Timell. "The point of tonight is to share progress and identify volunteers or groups of volunteers to carry out tasks" identified in the POCD.

The packet provided by P&Z listed 78 action items from the town plan covering 2020 to 2030. Of those goals, 12 were completed and 10 were underway. The rest were to be taken on by groups or



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

**One group focused on "Housing" action items at the POCD review.**

committees as applicable.

Completed tasks included: update home-based business regulations, allow for multifamily housing and launch a monthly newsletter from Town Hall.

Tasks in progress included: improve wastewater systems in West Cornwall, control speeds and improve safety on roadways and contribute to the protection of open space.

Incomplete goals included: improve broadband cell service, decrease minimum lot size required for building, create a public-private partnership program to entice new young families to town and develop a central gathering space or community "hub."

The attendees split into four subgroups to discuss goals for economic development, housing, natural resources and community, cultural and youth resources. Productive conversation ensued and ideas abounded, all of which were documented by the diligent P&Z members leading discussions at each table.

P&Z then began the task of compiling the information into a single document, which will be published on the town website.

## Cider maker visits Scoville Library

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Ron Bixby of Little Apple Farm and Cidery came to the Scoville Memorial Library Sunday, Jan. 26, to talk about his experiences in reclaiming an old apple orchard and starting a cidery.

The talk was sponsored by the Salisbury Association Land Trust.

The affable Bixby recalled buying the Hillsdale, New York, property. For decades it



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

**Ron Bixby shared his cider knowledge at the library.**

was owned and run by Louis Rudolph, who died in 1972.

A subsequent owner sold it to Bixby and his wife in 1980.

It was a bit of a mess, with a lot of untended apple trees and equipment lying around.

"We spent the first few years clearing on weekends."

By 1987 they were ready to start growing apples, and in 2016 the cidery opened.

Little Apple is a certified organic operation. Bixby said they use materials from an approved list for pest control.

They started out with Northern Spy and Golden Russet trees, and have added other varieties along the way.

In response to a question, Bixby clarified that when he

says "cider" he is talking about alcoholic, or "hard" cider, as opposed to non-alcoholic or "sweet" cider.

Asked what the difference is between sweet cider and apple juice, Bixby said the latter is usually made from concentrate, adding that Poland is a major exporter of apple juice concentrate.

He went into considerable detail about the harvesting and processing of the apples, which is labor-intensive.

As a result, the cidery produces small batches of different ciders, 20 to 30 gallons at a time.

And he keeps tinkering. In the last year he tried making a pear cider, after learning of a landowner in Pine Plains with a couple of old pear trees that nobody except the deer were paying attention to.

He cautioned those in the audience who are considering taking a stab at cider-making: "It takes a lot of work and a lot of love to have and make cider. So don't go into it lightly."

## AARP tax prep program Wednesdays at the Grove

Salisbury Senior Services will be offering the AARP Tax Aide program at the Salisbury Senior Center at the Town Grove in Lakeville.

Volunteers trained by AARP and certified by the IRS will be available to assist those 60 and older, and low-income residents with

the preparation and filing of all tax forms free of charge.

This service will be available on Wednesdays beginning Feb. 12 through April 9 by appointment only.

Contact Lisa McAuliffe, Director of Senior Services at (860) 435-5186 to schedule an appointment.

## NCCF scholarship applications

TORRINGTON — Northwest CT Community Foundation is now accepting applications for scholarships.

Over \$450,000 in scholarship funding is available for the 2025-'26 school year.

Students can find a comprehensive list of available scholarships, scholarship guidelines and application forms at [yournccf.org/scholarships](http://yournccf.org/scholarships). The deadline to apply is April 1, 2025.

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Submissions due by February 14, 2025  
[artshoweindianmountain.org](http://artshoweindianmountain.org)  
860.435.0871 x 185

**RECEPTION:**  
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IMS Student Center

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# OBITUARIES

## Barbara Breen Victorien

CORNWALL — Barbara, 87, a lifelong resident of Cornwall, passed away peacefully in her home on Jan. 18, surrounded by her family. Barbara was born on her family homestead on Hall Road on Dec. 1, 1937 to Florence Hall and Ralph Breen.



She attended Cornwall Consolidated School and graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Barbara worked at the Children's Cottage Specialty Shoppe in Cornwall. She went on to work for Frank Cole's insurance agency in Cornwall Bridge. She later worked as a secretary for Nicholas Tobin Insurance in Kent where she worked for several years, before retiring to enjoy her hobbies and home.

She married Jacques Victorien in 1960. They enjoyed traveling to France and Europe and briefly lived in Ireland and Nebraska before returning to the Cornwall area.

Barbara took pride in her home and gardens. Her hobbies over the years included entertaining guests, needlework, and researching family genealogy and has done extensive research on her family. She enjoyed cooking, collecting cook-

books and watching cooking shows. She also was a fan of Judge Judy and Jeopardy. Barbara was an avid reader. Among some of her favorites in her library were The Cat Who books, Agatha Christie, books about Ireland and many cookbooks. Her living room window was her favorite spot to watch wildlife, she especially loved the hummingbirds that would visit her feeders.

She cherished her family and friends who will miss her dearly. Barbara was a lifelong parishioner of St. Bridget's Catholic Church in Cornwall Bridge.

Barbara was predeceased by her husband Jacques Victorien. She is survived by her siblings; William Breen Sr. of Southfield, Massachusetts and Patricia Polk of Harwinton; several nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews and great, great nieces and nephews.

A Christian Mass and burial will take place in the spring at St. Bridget's Catholic Church in Cornwall Bridge.

Donations in her honor may be made to the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department.

Kindly visit [www.thurstonrowefuneralhome.com](http://www.thurstonrowefuneralhome.com) to send condolences.

AMENIA — Evelyn (Frankie) Frances O'Connell (Devine) passed away peacefully on Jan. 18, 2025, at Sharon Hospital. She was the best mom anyone could ask for. She was a true matriarch of the family, fiercely independent, fun, and feisty. Always ready for an adventure and willing to lend a helping hand, her friendship, or quick wit.

Frankie was born into a big, Irish-Catholic family on Sept. 18, 1935, on a farm in Yankton, South Dakota. The family moved to Michigan and then Central Islip, New York when Frankie was in

the 8th grade. She graduated Central Islip High School in 1954 and in 1957 she graduated St. Mary's in Brooklyn to become a Registered Nurse. She was the first person in her family to attend college and earn a degree.

Frankie and John O'Connell (Jack) were married in 1961. They had four children and moved upstate in 1970. They settled on Depot Hill in Amenia, New York. She was a dedicated parishioner of Immaculate Conception

Church, served as Treasurer on the Amenia Recreation



Commission for nearly 20 years, and was awarded Amenia's Citizen of the Year in 2015.

She was employed by Central Islip State Hospital and Wassaic Developmental State School for 33 years. Although she was greatly admired for her work as an RN, her best work was crafts of all kinds, making holiday clothing, ornaments, homemade chocolate, and fudge. She could be found at craft fairs all around the tri-state area, year-round. If there was a fair, she had a booth. She stayed busy, doing private duty nursing, selling Busy Bee Bags, and Contempo Jewelry. But her true love was providing day-care for her grandchildren, taking them on daily trips to the corner store for lotto tickets and lollipops.

She was predeceased by her parents Marion and Leroy (Sox) Devine, her siblings Marilyn Pickens (Richard), Darlene (Rusty) Howard, Dan (Boomer) Devine (Patsy), Tim Devine (Mona), and Diana LaCurto (John), her husband John O'Connell (Jack) and many

other family members and dear friends.

She is survived by her brother, Patrick Devine (Silonge) of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida; children Karen Grimaldi (Mark) of Salisbury, Micheal O'Connell of Guam, Bill O'Connell of Amenia, Kathleen Lacko of Casper, Wyoming, and her five grandchildren, Connor Washburn (Hannah), Mickaela Grimaldi, Liam Grimaldi, Kenny Lacko and Marykate Lacko.

There are no calling hours. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at Immaculate Conception Church, 4 Lavelle Road, Amenia, New York. Date and time be announced at a later date. Burial will follow at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Amenia.

Memorial contributions may be made to Immaculate Conception Church, 4 Lavelle Road, Amenia, NY 12501 or the Amenia Fire Company, P.O. Box 166, Amenia, NY 12501.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY.

To send an online condolence to the family or to plant a tree in Evelyn's memory, please visit [www.conklinfuneralhome.com](http://www.conklinfuneralhome.com)

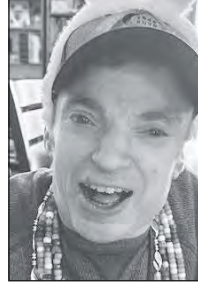
## Carl Patrick Allen

CORNWALL — Carl Patrick Allen, 50, passed away peacefully at home on Jan. 20, 2025.

Carl was born on Aug. 30, 1974, in Torrington.

Baptized in an incubator at 4 hours old, and not expected to survive the night, Carl proved time and time again to be a medical miracle.

A paraplegic from birth, due to open spina bifida, he endured countless hospital stays and surgeries throughout his life. None of that ever dampened his spirit. Each hospital stay was met with excitement by him as nurses doted on him and brought him his favorite treat, Jello. Carl warmed the heart of everyone he met with his infectious spirit and laughter. Carl is now reunited with



his mother, Carolann Tyler (Maule) of West Cornwall.

He is survived by his stepfathers, Earle Tyler of West Cornwall, and Jim Allen of Torrington; his siblings, Marc (wife Sue) Allen of Norfolk, Heather Tyler of Harwinton, Man-dy Allen-Fischer (husband Michael) of Thomaston, and Jason Allen of Torrington; and several loving aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Memorial and burial services will be private.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department, 289 Sharon Goshen Turnpike, West Cornwall, CT 06796.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

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

# OUR TOWNS

## P&Z approves Main St. coffee shop

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The Planning and Zoning commission voted to approve a special permit for a new coffee shop at the town-owned 107 Main St. after a public hearing Thursday, Jan. 23.

Liz Ives of Salisbury is the applicant. She and her husband, Howard, were at the hearing.

Ives said the plan is to start with breakfast and lunch — with coffee and tea — and hours from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The previous tenants did everything with electric appliances. Ives said she plans to install a propane stove.

Selectman Judy Jacobs, who attended the hearing along with Selectman Chris Kinsella, said the town will shoulder the cost of installing the gas lines needed for the propane stove, and designate

a site for the propane tank. The rest is up to the applicant.

The matter still requires another hearing, this time in front of the Board of Selectmen.

The date for the next hearing had not been set by The Lakeville Journal's copy deadline.

## Sharon Housing Trust works for more funding

By Alec Linden

SHARON — The Sharon Housing Trust has signed a term sheet with the Connecticut Department of Housing for a grant of \$1 million to finance construction, upkeep and repayments surrounding the affordable housing units at 91, 93 and 95 North Main St.

After originally applying for the grant in the spring of 2024, SHT's signing of the term sheet has enabled the Trust to work towards a closing, upon which date the grant will be formally awarded, according to a Jan. 24 press release. SHT anticipates the closing to occur in the spring of this year.

Over half of the funds are planned for construction improvements to the six units, all of which are currently occupied. The remainder will fund additional fees and expenses on the properties, as well as reimburse private donors who loaned money "on favorable terms" for the initial purchase of the properties in 2023, the press release stated.

The Trust recently paid off a \$100,000 anonymous bridge loan that had also aided the purchase of the homes, and thanked the private donors who assisted in repayment in a Jan. 3 press release.

SHT also has the oppor-

tunity to lease the former town community center at 99 North Main St., adjacent to the affordable homes. Pending an application for \$1 million in government funding, the Trust would convert the building into four additional affordable rental units, creating a distinct downtown affordable housing complex.

In the Jan. 24 release, SHT President Richard Baumann stated his optimism for the project: "With this grant and with other support, we intend to make 91, 93 and 95 North Main St., and the adjacent community center at 99 North Main St., a four-building affordable housing campus that provides reasonable housing and helps all Sharon residents take pride in our community."

## Discover the Talmud with Chabad Lubavitch

This winter, Chabad Lubavitch of Northwest Connecticut will offer "Decoding the Talmud," a new six-session course by the acclaimed Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) in three convenient locations.

The course, taught by Rabbi Joseph Eisenbach, aims to demystify the intricate world of the Talmud, the monumental classic that has shaped Jewish learning for centuries.

Students will meet its main characters, explore its dynamic history, and engage in authentic Talmudic study. They will learn the key terms, logical principles, and historical context required to decipher the text of this 1,500-year-old work and

discover how it has survived and thrived, continuing to fill Jewish study halls to this day.

Classes will be held in three different locations, with differing schedules based on the site.

Beginning Feb. 2 at Chabad Lubavitch of Northwest Connecticut, 69 West St., Litchfield, Conn., the group will meet Sundays from 10 to 11 a.m.

Beginning Feb. 5 at Heritage Hotel, 522 Heritage Road, Southbury, Conn., the class will meet Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Beginning Feb. 6 at Interlaken Inn, 74 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, Conn., the class will meet Thursdays from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

## Worship Services

Week of February 2, 2025

<p><b>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon</b> 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 <a href="http://www.christchurchsharon.org">www.christchurchsharon.org</a></p>	<p><b>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.</b> 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming <a href="http://www.salisburyucc.org">www.salisburyucc.org</a> Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>
<p><b>St. John's Episcopal Church</b> 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on You-Tube <a href="http://www.stjohnssalisbury.org">www.stjohnssalisbury.org</a> 860-435-9290</p>	<p><b>Trinity Episcopal Church</b> 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 <a href="http://www.trinitylimerock.org">www.trinitylimerock.org</a> The Rev. Heidi Truax <a href="mailto:trinity@trinitylimerock.org">trinity@trinitylimerock.org</a> (860) 435-2627</p>
<p><b>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC</b> Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am <a href="http://www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational">www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational</a> 860-824-7232</p>	<p><b>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT</b> Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons Sunday, February 9 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at <a href="mailto:joiauloi@gmail.com">joiauloi@gmail.com</a> All are Welcome</p>
<p><b>FISHES &amp; LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH</b> is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm &amp; Thursday 12-2 pm <a href="http://www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org">www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</a></p>	<p><b>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH</b> Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville 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 Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p><b>Congregation Beth David</b> A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at <a href="http://congbethdavid.org">congbethdavid.org</a>) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 <a href="mailto:info@congbethdavid.org">info@congbethdavid.org</a></p>	<p><b>The Sharon United Methodist Church</b> 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 <a href="mailto:sharonumc5634@att.net">sharonumc5634@att.net</a></p>
<p><b>The Lakeville United Methodist Church</b> 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 <a href="mailto:Lakevillemethodist@snet.net">Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</a></p>	<p><b>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall</b> 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! <a href="http://www.allsaintscornwall.org">www.allsaintscornwall.org</a> Rev. Mary Gates!</p>
<p><b>Falls Village Congregational Church</b> 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</p>	<p><b>St. Thomas Episcopal Church</b> 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-373-9161 <a href="http://www.stthomasamenia.com">www.stthomasamenia.com</a> A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p><b>UCC in CORNWALL</b> Cornwall Village Meeting House Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 <a href="http://www.uccincornwall.org">www.uccincornwall.org</a> Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>	<p><b>Promised Land Baptist Church</b> 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! <a href="http://www.promisedlandbaptist.org">www.promisedlandbaptist.org</a></p>
<p><b>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church</b> 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. <a href="http://www.thsmithfieldchurch.org">www.thsmithfieldchurch.org</a> 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p><b>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church</b> 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   <a href="mailto:allsaintsofamerica.us">allsaintsofamerica.us</a></p>
<p><b>Canaan United Methodist Church</b> 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 <a href="mailto:canaanct-umc.com">canaanct-umc.com</a> <a href="mailto:canaanctumc@gmail.com">canaanctumc@gmail.com</a> We hope you will join us!</p>	<p><b>Sharon Congregational</b> 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website <a href="http://sharoncongregationalchurch.org">sharoncongregationalchurch.org</a> for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or <a href="mailto:info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org">info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</a></p>

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EDITORIAL  
Our Community

The current conflict in the Mideast that began on Oct. 7, 2023, involving Israel, Hamas, the Palestinians, Hezbollah and Lebanon continues to show up daily on the news front. The war in Ukraine equally puts a prominent news focus on what next month will be a three-year long invasion by Russia. Both stories fight for our attention every day. Now we have a third dominant news story, the inauguration of a new president who is testing the boundaries of the presidency.

Digesting the steady stream of all this news has become a complex process, requiring that we summon and revisit a knowledge of history, that we strive for a fair footing with regard to political viewpoints and try not to rush to judgment, while not forgetting our humanity and what that means. These are not simple times. It's not easy to settle for an 'it is what it is' stance.

In terms of total vote for president across the country, the tally differed by a little more than a percentage point (1.47%). In other words, while half of Americans who voted for change might be applauding the flood of executive orders coming from the White House, the other half expresses dismay.

Just as political polarization remains consistently high in the United States, civility in American society is on the decline. We must remember that we are a community. We should protect that community by acknowledging differences of opinion, recognizing that our worth as a community comes from the respect we grant each other.

This newspaper isn't covering the war in Ukraine or the Mideast conflict or the White House. It is covering our Northwest Corner communities, and our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, and to foster the free flow of information and opinion. And we put a premium on civility for the sake of our own community.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

North Canaan Fire Co. gets kudos for response

I want everyone to know what a great group of men we have in the North Canaan Volunteer Fire Company. Sunday morning I discovered smoke filling my house. It wasn't from a fire, but a blocked chimney pipe. They arrived in full force and took care of the problem. They

were very concerned about my welfare and my cat who ran away. He came back in the afternoon.

Again a big thank you to a great group of men. We are lucky to have them in North Canaan.

Carolyn McDonough  
Canaan

Antisemitism is not amusing

Six of us served on the Planning Committee for the Salisbury Stand With Israel Vigil held shortly after the Hamas massacre of Oct. 7, 2023. We write in response to the noxious letter from Lloyd Baroody in the Jan. 16 paper.

Mr. Baroody undoubtedly intended his letter to be a humorous response to the loose talk about making Canada our 51st state. But there is no room for humor regarding the barbaric events of Oct. 7, the worldwide outbreak of antisemitism unleashed by that event, or the constant call for the eradication of the State of Israel — "From the river to the sea," as U.S. anti-Semites constantly chant on our college campuses and in our cities.

Mr. Baroody notes that Israel receives substantial U.S. foreign aid. But that "foreign aid" is largely money that never leaves American hands; it is invested in American military and defense capabilities and shared with Israel, the front-line defender of Western Civilization in the Middle East.

Pat Johnson, a Canadian writer and commentator, has suggested that "Palestine," not Israel, is the better economic choice for confederation with the U.S. Palestinians are the world's largest per capita recipients of humanitarian aid, having swallowed up billions of aid dollars with effectively no improvement in the lives of

everyday Palestinians. If the US had control of those vast sums and brought to bear it's know-how in infrastructure and nation building, Palestinians might begin to see some improvement in their lives. Palestinians live next door to one of mankind's greatest models of post-colonial nation building, yet have steadfastly scorned any lessons from that experience.

The most obnoxious part of Mr. Baroody's letter is his use of the terms "genocidal slaughter" and "holocaust" to describe Israel's response to the Hamas massacre. Those terms describe the 20th Century Jewish experience in Germany and Europe. Their use to score political points against Israel is abhorrent and totally distorts what is happening today in the Middle East. While Baroody and other critics of Israel concoct a so-called "genocide" in Gaza, actual genocides are taking place throughout the world; they include the incessant calls for the genocide of Jews — which is, of course, the foundational ideology of those who instigated the current conflict. This ideology must not be allowed to take root in our country.

Mike Abram  
Nadav Goshen  
Michael Auerbach  
Lawrence Hutzler  
Alan Friedman  
Marylene Friedman  
Paulette Hutzler  
Tom Morrison  
Salisbury



The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. each Monday. You may email letters to publisher@lakevillejournal.com. Please limit letters to 500 words.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Compliments to Salisbury P&Z for work on Wake Robin application

I am writing to compliment Dr. Michael Klemens and his fellow Commissioners Catherine Shyer, Allen Cockerline, Martin Whalen and Robert Riva — and by extension the Town Salisbury — on the outstanding job they did in considering the Wake Robin Inn Special Permit Application. At \$20+ million, this is the largest single construction project in Salisbury in memory. The application engendered enormous interest among multi-

ple elements of the community. The Commissioners led the discussions with fairness and firmness. Through seven zoom sessions, they never "lost their cool," and Dr. Klemens kept some of the most vociferous fellow citizens in order. I was also impressed that the Chairman gave every member of the community wishing to address the P&Z an opportunity to do so, some even on multiple occasions.

Our home is one of the

abutters to the Wake Robin Inn property. As a result, we are one of the properties most impacted by this application. I felt great confidence as I watched Dr. Klemens, his fellow Commissioners and staff Abby Conroy and Miles Todaro guide the discussions and deliberations. We in Salisbury are fortunate to have this P&Z Commission team and staff guiding this complex application process.

Mark S. Hochberg, M.D.  
Lakeville

Thoughts on impact from minimum wage hike

I found it interesting that the local business owners interviewed for the story about Connecticut's new minimum wage lamented that with the small increase in hourly wages some of their staff would lose their state benefits (health insurance, food and energy assistance, affordable housing.)

What no one pointed out was that the previous minimum wage (\$15.69 per hour) was not a "living wage" because those who earned it could not support themselves. (That may not have changed even with the increased minimum wage.)

What struck me was that Americans in business expect the American taxpayer to supplement the wages they pay their employees and to subsidize their labor costs.

Laurie Nussdorfer  
Amenia Union, New York

A proposal for boosting tax revenue

After a long career in business, I offer this modest proposal for increasing federal tax revenue in the hope that our political leaders will take note.

Under the current tax code, taxes are due only when they are earned or realized — for example, salary or capital gains from sales of assets that have appreciated.

However, if you gift an appreciated asset to a charity or a foundation, you will be entitled to a tax deduction on the value of the gift (with some limitations) without ever paying tax on any increase in value of the gift.

This is also true upon death: if under your will or revocable trust you give a gift to a charitable organization,

or a foundation (including your personal foundation), the gift will be exempt from estate taxes and no taxes on the increase in value will be paid.

My proposal would only affect the super-rich, who often use these rules to avoid paying any taxes on these gifts to charity.

1. Lifetime gifts under \$25 million would be exempt from any taxes, to keep gifting incentivized.

2. Lifetime gifts from \$25 million to \$50 million would be subject to one half of the current federal long-term capital gains tax (which is 20% for the folks who would be affected by my proposal).

3. Lifetime gifts from \$50 million to \$100 million

would be subject to the current federal long-term capital gains tax.

4. Lifetime gifts from 100 million to 500 million dollars would be subject to a federal long-term capital gains tax of 30%.

5. Lifetime gifts of over \$500 million would be subject to a federal long-term capital gains tax of 40%.

Mort Klaus  
Sharon and Boca Raton, Florida

Sharon students thanks for helping veterans

Sharon Woman's Club (SWC) has been supporting the Veterans at Rocky Hill for years through the Secret Santa program. Four years ago, SWC reached out to the Sharon Center School academic team asking if students would welcome the opportunity to send holiday cards to our veterans. Students and teachers alike

embraced the idea; cards have been touching and heartwarming, drawings and messages of respect and gratefulness filled the pages, holiday spirit was delivered. To all Sharon Center School students, "Thank you!"

Helene Minton  
Sharon Woman's Club  
President  
Sharon

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THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL  
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Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.

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## Viewpoint

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

125 years ago —  
January 1900

SALISBURY — Clarence Holder, who met with an accident at the Bicycle shop a short time since is improving.

Since the recent rains the Cutlery Handle shop has had water power to enable them to run on full time.

Lester Ostrander is now working at the cycle shop and has moved his family into the company's tenement house.

G.A. Selleck is one of the busiest of men these days, as the wheels at the grist mill can be heard grinding early and late.

The depots at Salisbury and Chapinville were entered by sneak thieves Sunday evening last and the contents of the gum machines and telephones were taken after smashing them in order to reach the contents. Very small amounts were secured at both depots.

Mrs. Henry Staniforth is very ill of nervous prostration.

The village of Sharon has had its lesson upon the danger of being without sufficient hose in case of fire, and to the credit of that village be it said it has risen to the emergency and has adopted the scheme of having more hose, having raised the amount necessary. We hate to admit it, but this village has a similar lesson to learn. It may be a dear one, but it is bound to come sooner or later. The point is, that even if we can't have a regular hose company we at least ought to have about 1500 more feet of hose.

The question of changing the Sharon Station depot to Cooper's crossing is one that is agitating our people just now. Papers are being circulated both for and against the change.

LAKEVILLE — The station has been piped for gas lighting from the main and we may soon expect to see the station lighted better than ever before. Several burners are already in operation with good effect and more are to be added.

Robbins, Burrall & Co. have placed a street light on the corner of the bank. It is lighted by acetylene gas, has a reflector and lights up the surroundings in splendid shape. If we could have such lights at regular intervals all over the village the people would hardly know that night had come.

100 years ago —  
January 1925

The village of Sharon sustained a serious fire loss last Sunday morning, when the village Casino went up in smoke and flames and two dwelling houses adjacent were seriously damaged. The Sharon Chemical Co. responded, along with companies from Amenia, Lakeville, Millerton and Canaan, but there seemed to be some kind of trouble with the water pressure and in spite of a lot of hard work the Casino was soon a mass of ruins. The houses of Miss Ruth Prindle and Roland Marckres on each side of the Casino were also soon ablaze and while the fire was stopped before the buildings were consumed, they still suffered great damage, and the

occupants were compelled to leave them in a hurry after saving what household effects they could. The Casino was a large building and the glare of the fire could be seen for miles and called a large crowd of people from the surrounding country. Several reels of films booked by E.J. Stuart were also consumed. The Casino was built some years ago and was owned and operated by a stock company. It is understood that insurance to the amount of \$13,000 was carried, but this amount will not cover the loss and some doubt is expressed that the building will ever be replaced.

Wednesday morning furnished the coldest weather of the present winter. The mercury registered from 15 to 25 below zero according to locality, and Earl Day states that his thermometer said 31 below. The arctic hasn't much on us after all. This is almost a record for this section, but not quite. Older residents recall that in the winter of 1906 the mercury went down to 88 below at the Willard farm near Salisbury. That year water pipes leading into houses froze up in numerous cases and created a bonanza for the plumbers. For a period of about two weeks the mercury never got up to zero. However the present spell of weather has been cold enough to suit the most exacting. Let us all rejoice that there is plenty of coal to meet the conditions.

Mr. J. Cox Howell has decided to take a novel vacation. He left town Tuesday for New York where he joined the crew of the freight steamship Malta, which will voyage via the Panama Canal to San Francisco. Mr. Howell has shipped as an ordinary member of the crew and will practically work his way to the Golden Gate. He did not have to do this but he figured that he would have a lot more enjoyment as an ordinary seaman instead of seeing things from a deck chair. He figures that he will thus get a different perspective on seafaring life and that the experience will be something to enjoy and remember. His many friends here wish him a successful and enjoyable trip and vacation.

LIME ROCK — Little Gloria Peck has whooping cough.

Every child that was old enough to be out and most of the grown-ups witnessed the eclipse last Saturday morning. During the eclipse a daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Philip Atkins.

50 years ago —  
January 1975

Rod Aller of Lakeville unintentionally initiated the swimming season on Tuesday. He also demonstrated the utility of the lifesaving icepicks the Salisbury Rotary Club is obtaining from Sweden for sale at cost through various stores as a public service. Rod, an accomplished outdoorsman, was skating on a portion of Lake Wononscopomuc when he suddenly came on a patch of new ice and broke through. With the icepicks around his neck he easily clawed his way to safety despite the icy bath. Lake Wononscopomuc has not yet frozen solid this winter and has a number of open stretches where thousands of ducks and Canada geese congregate.

A head-to-head confrontation of ski jump "super stars" now looms with the annual Salisbury Ski Jumps fast approaching. Jay Rand, who has twice won the Magnus Satre Trophy, won the U.S. National Nordic Championships at Gilford, N.H., by jumping 243 feet on that 70 meter hill, for a point total of 404.8. Norwegian ace Petter Kongsli, last year's winner of the Satre Trophy at Salisbury, was second in the jump at Gilford, with a point total of 404.7. Second overall at the Gilford event was Walter Malmquist. All three — Rand, Kongsli and Malmquist — will be jumping at Salisbury. Rand and Bruce Jennings, another star performer, will each be trying to retire the Trophy by winning it for the third time. No one has ever achieved that feat.

Lakeville residents were surprised to find Jacqueline Onassis and her son John F. Kennedy Jr. in town last Friday. Escorted by a U.S. Secret Service agent, the two had an interview with admissions officers at The Hotchkiss School. Mrs. Onassis is reportedly considering enrolling her son at the private school. While in Lakeville, after their interview, the pair stopped at the Salisbury Milk Bar for lunch. In a brief conversation, Mrs. Onassis is reported to have commented on the beauty of the community. John Thompson Sr. at the Salisbury Milk Bar said Mrs. Onassis ordered a hamburger and coffee, while her son had a hamburger with a fried egg on it and a shake.

Salisbury Cleaners on Undermountain Road in Salisbury is under new management, with William Tedder II the new owner, taking over the cleaning business from his father, William Tedder.

Clarence Martin of Sheffield was the subject of a film on the art of horseshoeing. Mr. Martin has been a farrier for over 60 years and is well known for his knowledge of horses. The film, made by television director Michael Gottlieb, may be used to get a grant for more films on vanishing American craftsmen.

25 years ago —  
January 2000

GREAT BARRINGTON, Mass. — Dozens of firefighters from three states responded as part of a mutual aid call Tuesday morning to search for a girl who is presumed drowned. The search included state police underwater rescue and dive teams. As of 4 p.m. Wednesday, the rescue effort continued to search for Shirley Palmer, 5, who fell in the Housatonic River as she tried to pull her brother Richard out after he slipped in snow on the bank of the river and fell into the water. The two were on their way to Bryant school, taking a route along the shoreline instead of going down Main Street.

The parking lot at the Recreation Building at the Town Grove was full. Inside there were warm hugs and congratulations for a veteran teacher, more than enough to offset the damp cold outside. "She was the nicest," Shawn Bushey, now a pre-teen and a former Housatonic Day Care Center participant, said of Joan Palmer, who was being honored Sunday for her 30 years with the organization.

## Trump's rhetoric: Mostly a wish list

As we step into the new year, stocks have soared in celebration as Donald Trump took the reins of office. This transition of power has brought a wave of optimism, which can continue, although a mild bout of profit-taking in the near term should be expected.

A flurry of Day One executive orders kept the markets busy parsing the meaning of this one or that one. However, the enthusiasm had more to do with what President Trump did not do than what he did. The greatest fear of investors was that the president would levy 10% tariffs across the board on all nations. Some nations, such as China, Mexico, and Canada, were expected to get hit by even higher duties on Day One. It didn't happen.

Most economists are convinced that tariffs would not only hurt economic growth both here and abroad but also fuel further growth of inflation. That does not mean that tariffs are off the board. The president indicated that tariffs on our North American trading partners could be announced by early February. China, however, not so much.

The currency markets immediately began to sell the dollar, which has been a winning trade (up 10%) over the last several months. Foreign nations have been willing to see (or orchestrate) their

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currencies decline to reduce the impact of the expected 10% tariffs Trump promised during his campaign. See how that works?

As a result, the yield on U.S. bonds fell in tandem with the dollar. Those developments partially explain the rally in equities. Of course, this trade can reverse in the blink of an eye. The president has not said tariffs are off the table. I believe it is just a question of when some countries will be targeted for tariffs. Trump has made it clear that tariffs are a negotiating tactic. There is no reason to think he would drop this tool in the days and weeks ahead. However, do not tariff trade. That is a losing proposition for those who tried that during Trump's first term.

This week, the Federal Reserve meets on Jan. 29. Expectations are that the FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) will stand pat, keep interest rates where they are, and take a wait-and-see attitude toward the future. Bond investors are not expecting any more than one or maybe two interest rate cuts (if any) during 2025. Many of the president's policies could boost economic growth and possibly inflation and the Fed will want to see how the government's economic policies unfold.

Investors are focusing almost solely on Donald Trump. In a Davos speech on Thursday, Jan. 23, for example, the president said that interest rates around the world should be "dropped immediately" and that the price of oil should also be lowered. Taking those statements as gospel, I think is a mistake.

A U.S. president may be able to jawbone an easier interest rate policy from a Fed chairman. It has been done before, for example, under Richard Nixon's administration, but he has zero influence on other central bankers worldwide. As

for the oil price, OPEC + is not about to reverse policy quickly, nor would Saudi Arabia agree without some kind of multi-billion-dollar trade deal since that nation needs Brent Crude at \$90/bbl. or higher to balance its budget.

After living and investing through Trump's first term, I learned that much of what the president says should be taken with more than a grain of salt. I consider his many pronouncements as more of a wish list, some outrageous, others as catalysts for change. He announced his new initiative called Stargate this week. It is an artificial intelligence infrastructure project, which is a joint venture formed by OpenAI, Oracle, and SoftBank. It is a great idea that promises big dividends for our country.

The three companies, he said, would invest \$500 billion in AI infrastructure. Yet Elon Musk, the world's richest man and a close Trump adviser, who was also an early investor in AI, responded to the announcement by expressing some doubt.

He posted on his social platform X that these venture partners "...don't actually have the money," to accomplish the president's goal. His critique enraged many of the president's yes-men, but the beauty of Musk is that he can speak his mind with impunity. That may get him in trouble down the road with his new-found, best bud but not right now.

The point is that investors should not take everything the president says as gospel. Instead, consider his statements more of a directional outline of where he wants the nation and the world to go. It doesn't mean that what he wants he gets, as his first term demonstrated.

As for the markets, I am looking for a small pullback in the markets over the next few days leading up to the FOMC. I would consider that a gift. It would be a dip worth buying before the market resumes its climb to new highs.

Bill Schmick is a founding partner of Onota Partners, Inc., in the Berkshires.

Status  
Report

On Jan. 23, the Associated Press addressed the executive order signed by President Trump to rename the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America: "The Gulf of Mexico has carried that name for more than 400 years. The Associated Press will refer to it by its original name while acknowledging the new name Trump has chosen. As a global news agency that disseminates news around the world, the AP must ensure that place names and geography are easily recognizable to all audiences."

TORRINGTON — Northwest CT Community Foundation (NCCF) announced Jan. 21 the addition of three new members to its Board of Trustees: Dr. Jessica Lynn Magda, Sandra Pinnavaia and Charles B. Short. Established in 1969, the NCCF serves 20 towns in Northwest Connecticut. Its total endowment, comprised of more than 280 funds, has grown to more than \$150 million. Last year, combined grants and scholarships totaled in excess of \$5 million.

LENOX, Mass. — Berkshire Natural Resources Council (BNRC) announced the promotion of Nick Pitel to Director of Conservation, effective January 2025. Pitel succeeds Beth Mills, who retired at the end of 2024 after three years of dedicated service to land conservation at BNRC. Pitel will lead the organization's conservation efforts across Berkshire County.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

## Chickadee incoming

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Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde certainly has proven her worthiness to be included in JFK's Profiles of Courage with her sermon asking that mercy be shown in our governance. It is worth watching her sermon given on Jan 21st at the National Cathedral prayer service which is widely available on the internet. In addition, it might be a good time to read or listen to her most recent book entitled *How We Learn to be Brave; Decisive Moments in Life and Faith*. As the book has now sold out, it is best to listen to the Audible version. In this book, Bishop Budde gives guidance on how to face the current challenges our country faces with grace and clarity.

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# CELEBRATING MILESTONES IN BUSINESS

## 1891 - 2025 AND BEYOND

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**MORE ON PAGES A9 & A10**

### Milestones in Business

January is traditionally the month during which business owners reflect on the year that is past, and the year that is to come, trying to get a good handle on the economic future. This year, extraordinary in so many ways, has continued to be a challenge for all businesses, but especially small businesses, due to labor shortages and economic uncertainty. Yet, small businesses are an extremely important part of what makes the economy in the Tri-state region work. So, we are focusing this month, as we have for years at this time, on the businesses in our area that would like

our readers to know when they were founded, or some other milestone they feel is significant. They are mainly what the U.S. Small Business Administration defines as "small" - but together they have real and very meaningful influence on the region's fiscal health. We salute all those who have maintained and strengthened their businesses and organizations, and only hope for their continued success beyond. Please support these businesses, which employ many of us and improve the quality of life for all in the region.

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## BOATING

Continued from Page A1

lake associations and municipalities in the fight against invasive species." He cautioned, however, that education of the boating public "is critical to ensure compliance."

"We are unsure whether the funds collected by the state each year will increase or decrease, which will determine how much money they can award to support local lake management efforts."

At Salisbury's Lake Wononscopomuc, where a boat launch moratorium is in place to ward off hydrilla, Bill Littauer, president of that lake's association, is spreading word of the stamp changes by sharing the update with members.

Referring to the state fund distributions, he noted that, so far, "We have not been approved for grants under current DEEP authorizations."

### Two options for boaters

According to state environmental officials, the Oct. 1, 2024, fee update modifies the requirement from vessel to operator and affects the way boaters obtain their "stamp" or vessel decal.

All power boats or personal watercraft are required to display a registration decal, whether from Connecticut or another state.

There are then two options to purchase the boating stamp. The first is an individual stamp, at \$7 per person, assigned only to the individual purchasing the stamp. Proof of purchase is displayed on the individual's Sportsmen Conservation License as a privilege, like a fishing or hunting license. No decal will be provided.

The second option is the purchase of a \$25 Vessel AIS Decal, which must be affixed to the vessel and includes a \$5 processing fee. Both can be purchased through the DEEP online sportsmen licensing system at [portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Boating/FAQs/FAQ-AIS-Stamp](http://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Boating/FAQs/FAQ-AIS-Stamp). The decal will be mailed to the customer.

Both are valid for the calendar year in which they are purchased.

### Environmental impact

Aquatic invasive species — otherwise known as AIS — are non-native plants and animals introduced to water environments which can wreak havoc on both the ecosystem and the economy, according to Peter B. Francis, DEEP's boating division director.

"The disruption caused by AIS starts with effects upon native species," he said. "Invasive species can outcompete

native species for resources, leading to reduced biodiversity."

Some invaders, like zebra mussels, filter vast amounts of plankton from water bodies, starving native fish and disrupting food chains. Others, Francis said, "like the invasive plant hydrilla, grow into large dense patches and significantly alter habitat and reduce oxygen levels."

The economic toll, too, "can be staggering," the boating division director said. "From clogged waterways that prevent boating access to costly mitigation efforts, industries like fishing, tourism and recreation all suffer."

The United States spends billions annually on controlling invasive species and repairing environmental damage, Francis said.

### Solutions and management

State environmental officials said addressing the problem requires a multifaceted approach, and public awareness and community involvement are crucial in reporting and managing invasive species sightings.

"Preventive measures include stringent controls on ballast water discharge from ships and regulations on the

trade of aquatic organisms," Francis said.

"Boaters can accidentally facilitate the spread of AIS and therefore must closely inspect their vessel, trailer and gear before leaving a boat launch to ensure that they do not unknowingly transport aquatic hitchhikers."

In addition to the \$75,000 grant received by the Twin Lakes Association for the 2024 season, other examples of how the stamp fees were used by municipalities, lake and river groups in 2023 include:

**Education:** The Candlewood Lake Authority's lake steward program educates boaters on aquatic invasives threatening Candlewood Lake.

**Control:** The Connecticut River Watershed Council's project titled "Water Chestnut management the Connecticut River Watershed."

**Research:** The City of Middletown's blue-green algae mitigation research project.

Francis said the battle against aquatic invasive species is "ongoing, demanding constant vigilance and adaptive strategies."

## WAKE ROBIN

Continued from Page A1

that it has a better chance of approval upon resubmission. P&Z Chair Michael Klemens noted that since this was a preapplication discussion, nothing stated during the session would be binding on either the applicant or P&Z.

Klemens highlighted the cluster of cottages along Wells Hill Road as incongruent with the neighborhood, while also drawing attention to the lack of hard data on proposed sound levels in the first application. He and other P&Z members further stated that the resubmitted application would need written approval from the Water Pollution Control Authority that the town's sewer could handle the increased capacity from the development.

Commissioner Alan Cockerline called for "measurable objective sound transmission data" from sound experts if the applicant was to resubmit. "I'm still a believer that you can control a lot of this sound," Cockerline said. He explained that the Commission would need specific numbers to assess if the projected sound levels, particularly those emitted from the proposed event barn, would

be appropriate for the development.

Cockerline questioned the "intensity of the development" in the RR1 residential zone, stating that "something had got to give." Like Klemens, he suggested the cottages should be scaled back dramatically, if not removed altogether.

P&Z Vice Chair Cathy Shyer raised concerns over increased traffic at the intersection of the entrance to the hotel and Sharon Road. She stated that the winding and narrow nature of the roadway paired with its use by pedestrians, many of whom are students at the nearby Hotchkiss School, presents a potentially dangerous situation with higher vehicle density.

She suggested that the applicant explain how risky conditions along Sharon Road may be mitigated by the project: "Sightline improvement would really help this application," she said.

Shyer agreed with Klemens and Cockerline that a new application should ease the intensity of development. "The overall size and scale of the project is too big for that spot," she said.

## HONEYCHURCH

Continued from Page A1

make our ideas come to life," she said.

On the trip to Paris, Piccirelli explained, "I look for products that are of the highest quality, fit our aesthetic, and aren't found anywhere else." She continued, "It is fun to go shopping for the store. It's probably not how people imagine it. It can be a lot of work to find one or two products for the shop. I walked over 11 miles the other day at the show in Paris! It can be overwhelming, but I always have a plan and enjoy seeing the new items that are starting to hit the market."

"It was a bittersweet decision to leave our shop location in Salisbury," Piccirelli said. "It is hard to believe that I opened the store five years ago and now we are expanding in 2025. We love living in Salisbury and I care deeply about our town. The people of Salisbury have welcomed me and my husband, Mark, with open arms and we are grateful to live in such a supportive community. It is truly a special place."

What will she miss most about Salisbury? "The people! Especially our regular customers. I love the rela-

tionships I have with our wonderful customers."

"We will be in a spot that is three times larger than our current location," Piccirelli said of the new Lenox location. "I will be reimagining our store with new categories and more of our own private label items that I have developed. Lenox has become a bit of a shopping destination, and we look forward to being a part of large, vibrant community."

The new chapter of Honeychurch Home will begin in April when the Lenox store is scheduled to open.

## SCHAGHTICOKE

Continued from Page A1

couraging the DOI to reconsider its position.

Following several years of consultation with various stakeholders including former, present and prospective petitioners, federally recognized tribes, and various government representatives and officials, the DOI published a proposed rule on July 12, 2024 to implement a limited exception to the ban.

As presented in the Federal Register, the final Jan. 15 rule states that previously denied petitioners may re-petition if approved by an authorization process in which an unsuccessful petitioner must "plausibly

allege" that a previous negative outcome would become positive based on the reconsideration of changes in regulations due to the 1978, 1994 or 2015 revisions, or the presentation of new evidence.

The rule opens a potential pathway for the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation (STN), which was granted federal recognition in 2004 but was stripped of it a year later, to formally re-petition the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Republican American quoted Chief Richard Velky at a September 2024 press conference: "We believe the time has come to correct this

injustice, to right the wrong, and finally stand with our brothers and sisters who have also been recognized by the federal government."

The Schaghticoke were recognized by the colonial Connecticut General Assembly in 1736, which issued the tribe a reservation in the same year.


Among the oldest in the U.S., the reservation once totaled approximately 2,500 acres, spanning both shores of the Housatonic River.

The reservation now sits on about 400 acres of steep, rugged terrain on the west side of the river just north of Bulls Bridge in Kent.

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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK: ALEC LINDEN

## Frozen fun in Lakeville

While the chill of recent weeks has driven many Northwest Corner residents inside and their energy bills up, others have taken advantage of the extended cold by practicing some of our region's most treasured — and increasingly rare — pastimes: ice sports.

I am one of those who goes out rather than in when the mercury drops: a one-time Pee-wee and Bantam league hockey player turned pond hockey enthusiast turned general ice lover. In the winter, my 12 year-old hockey skates never leave my trunk, on the chance I'll pass some gleaming stretch of black ice on a roadside pond.

Last winter, when ice was hard to come by, was a massive disappointment for me, as it was for the other ice-obsessed among us. I was delighted, then, when I arrived at Lake Wononscopomuc on a comparatively balmy (26°F) Saturday afternoon to find recreators strolling, skating, fishing and fat-biking across the frozen expanse of its surface.

Grabbing my camera and stepping out onto the ice with the intention of chatting with some of the merry-makers, I gauged the uneven — but passable — surface below my feet and decided to run to the car and switch my boots with skates.

The going was rough at times, contending with intermittent snow layers and slush crusts, but even so the skates were vastly more efficient than my boots as I made my way from group to group.

I stopped to chat with David Bain, who was just starting to set up his fishing station after getting a late start. I asked him the depth under the hole he had just drilled, and he said it was about five feet, despite being 200 yards from shore on the deepest natural lake in Connecticut.

He explained that he had situated himself over a weed bed, and was hoping to catch some brown trout lurking off its shelf. A Norfolk resident, he said he was glad the ice was back after a season or two without it. He said the last time he had fished out on Wononscopomuc's ice — 2023, he reckoned — he had caught two sizeable brown trout (about 10



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Hot-tub style approach with a sledge-hammer assist at the lake.

and 8 pounds) within 15 minutes of each other at a spot just yards away from this one. I wished him luck for a similar outcome, and skated off to some distant figures hunkered over their ice drills.

I found Kyle Carso of Glastonbury and Andy Sabetta of Berlin, who are long time fishing friends, huddling over their holes as they hoped for a bite. They had been moving around the lake since 7 a.m., and had only pulled up a couple of perch so far. Carso said. Echoing Bain, Carso told me that Wononscopomuc is known for big brown trout though, and the duo had proof: Sabetta had caught a 14-pounder in June.

Carso said he was grateful for the ice conditions this season, which have been difficult to come by in several recent years. He said the ice was generally solid, about eight inches in most places, but encouraged caution as they had found some variability in the holes they drilled, with some spots thinner than others.

Brothers Eamon and John McNiff, who I found

with beers in hand just offshore of Eamon's lakefront property, similarly urged caution for those looking to explore the ice. He said that the frozen lake provides a valuable wealth of recreation, made more special by its seasonal transience — "as long as you're being smart about it." With the right caution, though, he said time spent on the ice is "magical."

The kids get to skate around the lake — close to shore, he specified — and for the adults? "There's nothing better than an ice beer."

His brother John had just fat biked — essentially a mountain bike with huge, deeply treaded tires for traction on snow and ice — across the lake from his own property on the other side. Upon arriving at Eamon's house, he slipped out and sprawled on the ice, pulling a muscle in the process. He said he was better now, though, enjoying a "recovery beer" provided by his brother.

My final stop of the

afternoon found a different type of cold-weather health practice — hanging out hot-tub style in a sledge-hammered hole in the ice. Danny Tieger and Tyler Spofford, both local to the area, are avid cold water swimmers they explained, and try to submerge themselves a few times a week during the winter months.

Tieger said that taking regular cold dips has been transformational after starting about five years ago: "It changed my relationship with my health and brain." The two stayed in the water, with apparent calm, for a remarkably long time. Spofford said that once you get over the shock, the water can actually feel a bit warmer than the air, because it actually is at about 34°F compared to the air temperature in the mid 20s.

As they finally climbed out and did some post-dip exercises, I looked out over the

Continued on Page B3



PHOTO BY ELIAS OLSEN

Emma Brockett, Josalyn Cipkas and Tiffany Oltjenbruns in rehearsal for "From All Angles."

DANCE: JENNIFER ALMQUIST

## Garet&Co returns to Norfolk

Garet Wierdsma and her northern Connecticut-based dance company, Garet&Co, will return to Norfolk for their third annual appearance with Dance Workshops on the next three Sundays, followed by two performances of "From All Angles" in Battelle Chapel on Saturday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 23, at 4 p.m.

In "From All Angles," audience members will witness Garet&Co translate three of the works presented at their fall show, "Can't Keep

Friends," danced in the round, where viewers can witness each piece from a new angle.

Additionally, Garet&Co will be premiering two new works, including a site-specific work made for the beautiful Battelle Chapel performance space. Notably, Garet&Co will be reprising an excerpt of their preeminent piece, "and sometimes I wish" for this show.

On Saturday, Feb. 22, audience members will enjoy a post-show recep-

Continued on next page

### Chair Yoga with Corey Chapman



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MUSIC: MIKE COBB

# Live Music at the American Mural Project

Known for its stunning 120-foot wide, five-story tall “Mural to the American Worker” by artist Ellen Griesedieck, the American Mural Project, also known as AMP, is located next to Whiting Mills in Winsted, Conn. AMP also offers educational programs for youth, summer camps, book talks, and has recently added musical programming.

After formally opening the main gallery to the public in the summer of 2022, the music series “Live @AMP” began in 2023 with the intention of expanding AMP’s scope and demographic through both visitation and event attendees.

Director Michelle Begley explained AMP’s goals. “We wanted to establish AMP as a high quality event space by bringing in dynamic, professional artists to create a synergy of music, per-



PHOTO BY JUDY GRIESEDECK

The New Mosaic performing at the Live @AMP music series.

formance and art.”

Asked how she finds talent, Begley said, “My colleague Mimi Madden and I work closely with our artistic and executive directors to invite established and innovative

Connecticut performing artists complemented by national and internationally recognized musicians, poets and speakers. It’s fun to both support local musicians, think big, and reach out

beyond Connecticut!”

AMP’s “Happy Hour Piano Series” has become a monthly anchor event that features solo pianists who play a multitude of styles. Recent performances by

Jen Allen, TJ Thompson, Isabella Mendes and Warren Byrd drew great crowds of jazz lovers. Jeff Bortako and Dan Ringuette had people singing along with their pop and holiday tunes while the passion and technique of classical pianists Maria Centola and Heather Reichgott moved audiences.

“We were gifted a beautiful baby grand piano by a steadfast supporter, the Greenberg family, who also support the series,” Begley explained.

AMP has hosted a wide variety of musicians including full bands performing soul, jazz, R&B, gospel, latin jazz, funk, swing and rock. The room has hosted Connecticut bands like West End Blend, Eight to the Bar, Theresa Thomason with the KC Sisters, Nikita, Ed Fast, and One Time Weekend, and there’s more in store.

“In 2025, we’re bringing in our first Grammy nominee, Eric Bibb, for what promises to be an incredible blues performance in April; the grunge band Gryme to connect to our community college population in September, and our first A Cappella Showcase that will feature student singers from colleges across New England,” Begley said.

Audiences can experience the excitement and energy of listening to great music, surrounded by incredible art with a big dance floor and great sound.

“We’ve been incredibly fortunate to work closely with John Fiorello of The John Samuel Group to help us invest in our sound and address the challenges of working in such a vast space. John’s skill has been critical to

our success as he is adept at optimizing every musician and vocalists’ performance, no matter the challenge,” Begley said.

As an active professional musician, teaching artist and voice teacher working in Connecticut for the last 30 years, Begley has worked in communities from Hartford to Torrington to the Northwest Corner.

“I’ve connected with an inspiring array of the wonderful and committed musicians who are perpetually digging deep to give of themselves to the vibrant and growing arts scene in Connecticut,” she said.

Cultivating a spirit of collaboration and community in all its events and programs, AMP is committed to creative partnerships. Local restaurants provide food and local bookstores have sponsored author based “AMPTalks.”

“The string quartet performance this past October, in partnership with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, highlighted the ‘industrial cathedral’ acoustics of the AMP space. We’ll be doing that and more in 2025 and 2026!” Begley said.

For audiences, the combination of exploring the mural’s massive art installation and inherent storytelling along with each performance makes every AMP event a remarkable experience.

Upcoming shows for 2025 include the New Haven based singer/songwriter Natalie Hamilton for the Friday, Jan. 25 Happy Hour Piano Series and the electric neo-soul vibe of The New Mosaic on Saturday, Feb. 1.

For more information, visit: [www.americanmuralproject.org/all-events](http://www.americanmuralproject.org/all-events)

## ... *Garet&Co* Continued from previous page

tion followed by a Q & A session.

On Sunday, Feb. 23, audience members will enjoy a pre-show performance with dancers

performing installation work.

Garet&Co offers several classes in the performance space at Battell Chapel during their

residence, including:

Intermediate/Advanced Technique: this Sunday, Feb. 2, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Intermediate/Advanced Contemporary Phrase Work: Sunday, Feb. 16, 12:30 to 2 p.m.

Beginners’ Contemporary: Saturday, Feb. 23, 1 to 2 p.m. (please join this class prior to the Sunday show for a special discounted package of class + show tickets)

Intermediate/Advanced Contemporary: Saturday, Feb. 23, 2 to 3 p.m. (please join this class prior to the Sunday show for a special discounted package of class + show tickets)

Garet Wierdsma expressed her excitement: “This year, we are bringing more dancers and more pieces than ever before, plus we are adding special elements that will keep audiences on their toes. We can’t wait to share this show with everyone!”

### DANCERS IN GARET&CO PERFORMING

#### “FROM ALL ANGLES”

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- Jessica Winter
- Evie Sondag
- Emma Brockett
- Sydney Champagne
- Josalyn Cipkas
- Layla Foley
- Tatyana Johnson
- Mack Longley
- Cassie Lorom
- Tori Mattie
- Dani Medvedovski
- Caitlin Quinn
- Noor Taweh

##### Students:

- Patrick Davis
- Brooke Gleason
- Ava Pasquantonio
- Arianna Zirbel
- Izzy Hill
- Violet Jakupco
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PHOTO BY ELIAS OLSEN

Evie Sondag, Jessica Winter, and Kyleigh Olivier in rehearsal for “From All Angles.”

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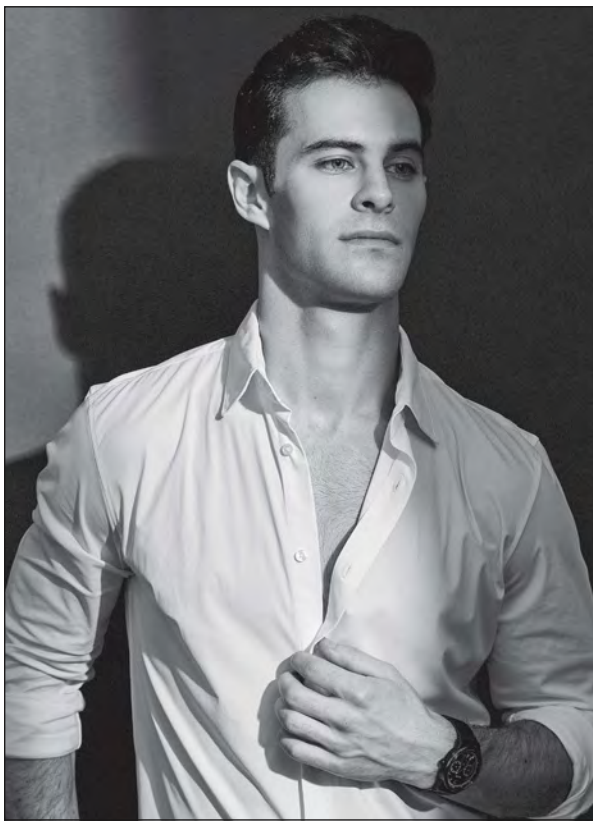


PHOTO PROVIDED

Sam Gravitte returns to Pine Plains on Feb. 1.

**THEATER: NATALIA ZUKERMAN**

## Broadway's Sam Gravitte brings 'A Song for You' to The Stissing Center

Broadway star Sam Gravitte ("Wicked") is returning to The Stissing Center in Pine Plains on Feb. 1 with his acclaimed cabaret show, "A Song for You," a heartfelt evening of music and storytelling. He will be joined by renowned music director Jacinth Greywoode, whose works range from classical chamber pieces to Broadway-style theater music.

"I'm so excited to have Sam Gravitte return to Stissing Center," said Stissing's executive director, Patrick Tretteno. "We were fortunate to have him perform on our stage last year with his mom, Tony-winner Debbie Gravitte."

Known for his stand-out performance as Fiyyero in "Wicked," Gravitte will once again bring his signature charisma and powerhouse vocals to the Stissing Center. The audience can expect a rich repertoire featuring legendary songwriters like Stevie Wonder and Stephen Sondheim, woven into a narrative exploring themes of love, hope, and connection.

"While we love that Sam has his own Broadway bonafides," said Tretteno, "we are looking

forward to his cabaret performance on our stage, which promises to show us his more personal side. Sam tells us that his show will explore themes of love, hope, and romance —perfect for the run-up to Valentine's day!"

For tickets and more information, visit: [thesstissingcenter.org](http://thesstissingcenter.org)

**FILM: ROBIN RORABACK**

## Students see 'Selma' at the Triplex on MLK Day

Students from W.E.B. Du Bois Regional Middle School, Mount Everett Junior High School, Berkshire Country Day School and Richmond Consolidated School attended a screening of the movie "Selma" at the Triplex Cinema in Great Barrington Jan. 20.

The screening was held in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. It was sponsored in part by the Great Barrington, Monterey, Stockbridge, and New Marlborough Cultural Councils.

"Selma" was released in 2015, 50 years after the marches from Selma to Montgomery. It recounts the struggles of African Americans to exercise their right to vote in spite of resistance from registrars of voters in Selma, Alabama. It shows the brutality encountered by activists and marchers and those just wanting to vote. The participants of the first march were met with tear gas, police armed with clubs and on horseback as they marched over the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Many among the marchers suffered injuries. After the first March, King called for

clergy and others to join the next march.

Moderator of the question-and-answer period after the movie was Shirley Edgerton, a local activist and NAACP Berkshires board member. She asked the students, "Why do you think you were allowed to come here today?"

Answers included: "History repeats itself."

"To learn about the civil rights movement." "So, it doesn't happen again."

"It is a reminder of issues that are happening today."

"What did you think about the movie?" Edgerton asked next.

"It was emotionally heavy when it got into what actually happened."

"It was not just the story of Dr. King, but of Malcom X and John Lewis."

"Your schools want you to understand history," Edgerton said. She explained that she is a member of the NAACP which was founded in 1909 by a group including Great Barrington resident and sociologist W.E.B. Du Bois. The NAACP is composed of



PHOTO BY L. TOMAINO

**Shirley Edgerton, local activist and NAACP Berkshires Board Member, leads a discussion with students from area middle schools after a screening of the film "Selma" at the Triplex Cinema in Great Barrington in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.**

"All folks who believe in addressing and disarming hate," Edgerton said.

"All of us have biases," Edgerton said to the crowd. The way to combat bias, she said, is to "Address issues and ensure that these issues don't continue."

She asked the students what issues they

are facing today. "Abortion" said one, another said "Only two genders now." "Human trafficking," said another.

"What can you do as eighth graders about these issues?" asked Edgerton.

"We can grow up

*Continued on next page*

## ... frozen fun

*Continued from Page B1*

lake, dim silhouettes of anglers and fat bikers speckling the white expanse in the soft blue light of the late afternoon. Pulling off my skates for the day with numb and fumbling fingers, I felt grateful for the ice and the unique joy it brings to an oft-maligned season.

With cold weather growing less consistent with each passing winter, days like these can feel a little melancholic and fragile, as if those of us who take to the ice are

salvaging for something already almost in the past. Perhaps we are, but it comforted me to be in good company as I scanned the lake's surface for the last few hold-outs as the clock neared five. If it freezes, we will come.

**Any lake ice recreation is inherently dangerous as the ice can be inconsistent. Anyone venturing out onto the ice must consult experts before doing so and follow town guidance.**

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**KRISTY FOSS**

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**MIKE ABRAM**

"I like The Millerton News as a way to find out local news and they publish pictures of my children. There's so much that people can do in our community but only if they have a local news source."  
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## TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

### JANUARY 30

#### The White Hart Speaker Series: Janice Kaplan, What Your Body Knows About Happiness

The White Hart Inn, Salisbury, Conn.

On Thursday, Jan. 30 at 6:30 p.m., Janice Kaplan reveals how the body-mind connection can unlock a happier, more fulfilling life.

\$15 (Includes wine + \$5 book voucher)

www.eventbrite.com/e/janice-kaplan-what-your-body-knows-about-happiness-tickets-1114118531519

### JANUARY 31

#### Lunar New Year Celebration

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

It's the Year of the Snake! Join the David M. Hunt Library to learn about Lunar New Year, a special celebration in many parts of the world that marks the new year, at our Lunar New Year Celebration on Friday, Jan. 31 at 3:30 p.m.! We'll enjoy treats, stories, and crafts as we learn about this treasured holiday.

### FEBRUARY 1

#### Take Your Child to the Library Day

Douglas Library, 108 Main St., North Canaan, Conn. douglaslibrarycanaan.org

Celebrate "Take Your Child to the Library Day" at the Douglas Library in North Canaan on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Canaan Kids Artspace will host a fun drop-in craft where kids can create a collage portrait of their favorite book character using recycled materials. This event is free! Refreshments. Call the library at (860) 824-7863 or visit canaanartspace.org for further info.

#### Live Music + Open Mic

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

Twelve Moons Coffee House offers live music, poetry readings and storytelling on the 1st Saturday of each month. Saturday, Feb. 1, will feature David Ray as the Featured Artist. A former New York City cab driver, bartender, bouncer, and actor, David Ray's award-winning songs have been described as "cinematic." Doors open at 6 p.m. with open mic performances beginning at 6:30. Ray will play from 8 to 9 p.m. Guests are welcome to bring their own dinner and beverage or enjoy coffee/tea and fresh baked goods provided by the venue.

#### Kitten Story Time/ Take Your Child to the Library Day

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

Celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day at the David M. Hunt Library on Saturday, Feb. 1 at 10:30 a.m. with Kitten Story Time! Learn more about cat fostering and animal rescue through this special story time while meeting some of Sophia L'Orange's rescue kittens! Snacks and crafts to follow.

### 2025 Winter Benefit: Le Bal Éclipse

Troutbeck, 515 Leedsville Road, Amenia, N.Y.

There will be a benefit for the Wassaic Art Project on Saturday, Feb. 1. The benefit is from 6 to 8 p.m. and the afterparty is 8 to 11 p.m.

Join us for a black-and-white ball in the style of Paris 1968, honoring philanthropist Robert Wilder and artist Taha Clayton. The evening includes exclusive artworks, an auction, and the unveiling of Clayton's new object edition. The afterparty begins at 8 PM, transforming the night with sound, light, and liberation. Admission to the afterparty is included with the benefit ticket.

### FEBRUARY 2

#### Author Talk

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

Join the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon on Sunday, Feb. 2 at 4 p.m. for an Author Talk & Book Signing with James Shay, the author of "Mohawk Mountain Ski Area: The Birth of Snowmaking." Explore the unique contributions of Mohawk and Walt Schoenknecht to the sport of skiing. Registration is required for this talk, as space is limited. Please register here: hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com/event/13678038.

### Salisbury Forum Offers Free Film Screening and Local Panel on Food Access

Colonial Theater, 27 Railroad St., North Canaan, Conn.

The Salisbury Forum will present a free screening of the documentary Food and Country followed by a panel discussion about the local food economy at the Colonial Theater on 27 Railroad St. in North Canaan, Conn., on Sunday, Feb. 2, at 1:30 p.m. Registration is required at www.salisburyforum.org. This is a sold-out event. If you were unable to register keep an eye out for the video of the panel discussion on our website by the end of February.

Food and Country is produced by trailblazing food writer Ruth Reichl, who has served as a restaurant critic for the Los Angeles Times and New York Times, editor-in-chief of Gourmet Magazine, and a judge on Top Chef Masters.

Following the screening, attendees will learn about the local food economy from panelists who bring food from the farm to the table. Rebecca Busansky, executive director of Berkshire Agricultural Ventures (BAV), will moderate the panel, which will feature Dan Carr, owner of Beavertides Farm in Falls Village, Conn., and BAV team member; Amanda

Freund, third-generation farmer at Freund's Farm in East Canaan, Conn., and manager of the farm's CowPots business; and Peter Platt, chef and owner of The Old Inn on the Green in New Marlborough, Mass.

### FEBRUARY 4

#### Bradford Morrow, The Forger's Requiem: A Novel

Oblong Rhinebeck, Rhinebeck, N.Y.

On Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 6 p.m., author Bradford Morrow will speak about his gripping literary thriller about expert forgery, family secrets,

and Mary Shelley's legacy.

Free, Online registration required.

### FEBRUARY 6

#### Christopher Bjork & William Hoynes, More Than Just a Game

Oblong Rhinebeck, Rhinebeck, N.Y.

On Thursday, Feb. 6 at 6 p.m., Two Vassar professors unpack the youth sports industry and its impact on parenting and kids.

Free, Online registration requested.

### Memoir Workshop with Leigh Curran

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

Join us for five Thursdays, Feb. 6 through March 6, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., for a new memoir workshop. Author and writing instructor Leigh Curran will guide you through tried-and-true approaches to memoir writing. Open to all writing levels. Register at scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/13908316

Last week's WotW

W	R	I	N	G
R	O	B	O	T
C	O	R	A	L
S	O	L	A	R
P	O	L	A	R

To advertise your event, call 860-435-9873 or email advertising@lakevillejournal.com

## 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.


- "Oops! I did it \_\_\_\_."
- Light brown, sandy hue
- Filth ingrained on a surface
- Local exploration expert
- 99th Jumpfest takes flight

WORD OF THE WEEK ©THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

## ... 'Selma' Continued from previous page

smarter and fix these issues."

"Stop making fun of people who ID as gay, straight, non-binary."

"Be kinder."  
"Support peers and take the knowledge of

what we learned today and put it into our day-to-day base."

In conclusion, Shirley Edgerton told the students, "You have to decide if you want to be part of change or not."

  
**Hop, skip, and jump down to SML for**



**Take Your Child To The Library Day!!**

**Saturday, February 1st**  
10:30 am - 3:30 pm

It's cold outside, but there will be plenty of active fun at our

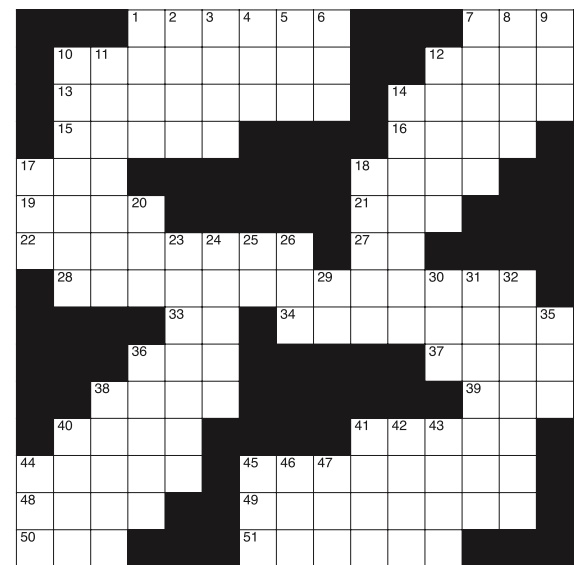
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## Brain Teasers

### CLUES ACROSS

- Where entertainers perform
- Miller beer variety
- Ageless
- River in SE Europe
- Able to be repaired
- Type of wrap
- Atomic #54
- Type of tent
- U.S. Treasury position
- Opposed to
- Protective covering
- Bridge building degree
- Clouding of the lens
- Priestess of Hera loved by Zeus
- Unacceptable
- Mr. T's "The A-Team" character
- American national park
- One point south of due east
- Assist in a crime
- Greek mythological personification of Earth
- A major division of geological time
- German courtesy title
- English family dating back to Norman times
- Discounts
- South American nation
- Former Milwaukee Buck Michael
- Hostile
- Passports and drivers licenses are two
- Discourages from doing



- Sportscaster Patrick
- A way to get around
- Repeat
- A way to cook with fat
- Temporary loss of consciousness
- Reciprocal of a sine
- Fir tree genus
- "Transformers" director Michael
- Criminals who steal
- Genus of leaf-footed bug
- Music product
- "Talk to you"
- Santa says it three times
- Doctors' group
- African nation
- Ageless
- When you hope to get somewhere

- Worn
- Deprives of vigor
- Used to have (Scottish)
- Where you live
- Muslim ruler title
- Basics
- Type of drug (abbr.)
- Spanish soldier
- It precedes two
- Illuminated

### Jan. 23 Solution

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

### Sudoku

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

### Jan. 23 Solution

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

Level: Intermediate



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# Our Towns

## Falls Village trivia night stumps crowd

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — About 30 people came to the Center on Main for a Falls Village trivia night Saturday, Jan. 25, sponsored by the Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society and the David M. Hunt Library.

Dick Heinz was the trivia master, with assistance from Judy Jacobs and Meg Sher.

People drifted in and out, and arrived a bit after the start. The roughly 30 people sorted themselves into five teams.

Sample questions: What year was the Town

of Canaan incorporated?

And for extra credit: What year did the Town of Canaan split into two towns?

This was a tricky one: What year did the hydro-power plant go online?

And this was a poser: What important iron product was manufactured in the Huntsville section of Falls Village?

People brought their own snacks and beverages, or bought something from the Lee H. Kellogg School eighth grade bake sale table.

It was a little on the chilly side in the Center, so people kept their coats on for the most part.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN  
Running the trivia game were, from left, Dick Heinz, Meg Sher and Judy Jacobs.

The prizes were gift certificates to the monthly book sale at the library.

Answers: Canaan was incorporated in 1739. The split came in 1858.

The hydropower plant began producing electrici-

ty in 1914, but the dam and other infrastructure was built in the 1850s.

Iron ship anchors were made in Huntsville. Heinz surmised that this fact is obscure because there isn't much of a local need for ship anchors, then or now.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN  
The Lightsaber Toss competition was a hit at Hunt.

## Hunt Library hosts 'Winter Olympics'

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — It was a busy week at the David M. Hunt Library.

On Wednesday, Jan. 22, a group of a dozen or so students from the Lee H. Kellogg School converged on the library around noon. The students had a half day at school.

Billed as the "Winter Olympics," the library's Britany Spear-Baron said it was too cold outside for the bulk of the planned events.

So library patrons were greeted with the unfamiliar sight of tape on the floor, indicating directions and boundaries for such events as the Lightsaber Toss.

The children did venture outside with plastic bowls filled with water and assorted objects such as pine boughs, seeds, and a bit of twine.

The idea was to allow the bowls to freeze, thus creating an icy ornament. The twine was to facilitate hanging the ornaments outside, until they eventually melt.

Back inside the group indulged in bowling for water

bottles in the stacks, and the Light Sabre Toss.

This is not an easy game. The lightsabers, also known as pool noodles — and sometimes as "javelins" — are light in weight.

Their long noodly shape resists attempts to propel them forward like a spear.

It takes a master hand to get more than a few feet per try.

On Saturday, Jan. 25, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., there was a reception for the young artists of the Kellogg School.

The show, "Home Sweet Home," is comprised of cigar box art by Kellogg students. The show will be up through Feb. 7.

The artists, many of whom had other commitments such as basketball, drifted in in ones and twos.

Tracy Atwood was waiting to chat with the artists, having spent some time looking at the works.

He quizzed Dyani Nirschel, grade 4, on her triptych, wondering how she picked the elements in the piece. The answer: "Just random things."

## Sharon P&Z holds first planning session of 2025

By Alec Linden

SHARON — The Planning and Zoning Commission met on Jan. 22 for a planning session, focalizing ridgeline and horizon-line protection regulations, Airbnb regulations, and how to zone for new uses of farmland and estate lands as subjects in need of further investigation.

P&Z Vice Chair Betsy Hall presented the topics to the assembled group, with all agreeing that the issues were worthy of researching how they may develop zoning regulations appropriate for the town and its residents.

As this was a planning session, there were no motions or votes, but rather commissioners brainstormed how best to approach these issues from a town planning

and zoning standpoint.

Vice Chair Hall drew attention to the fact that many regulations surrounding ridgeline protections only refer to prominent ridges with steep gradients. She expressed that the definition should be widened to account for less dramatic ridges, such as the horizon line of a rolling farm field.

"It concerns me because some of the old farms are all horizon ridgelines," she said.

Land Use Administrator Jamie Casey suggested that the commission reach out to other towns where zoning regulations around ridgelines and horizons have been tested in practice. Several members were assigned to contact the towns of Morris, Farmington and Kent for reports of their experience with such

regulations.

The next discussion topic concerned regulating Airbnbs in town, with several commissioners expressing that they'd like to find ways to avoid homes being purchased purely to be short-term rentals rather than true residences. Hall suggested that Sharon implement a registry to better keep track of Airbnb and other home rental services in town, which other commissioners agreed with. Members were again assigned to contact other towns in the region who have implemented registries and other regulations for research and guidance.

The group then discussed potential uses for Sharon's extensive farmlands and estate lands that may be changing ownership or falling out of

their traditional use. Commissioners floated many ideas, including wineries, breweries, and spaces for art shows and galleries.

Hall drew attention to Cornwall's regulations which allow applicants for this type of proposal to suggest their intended use, which P&Z then determines if it fits within zoning regulations rather than have the uses themselves codified into the regulation.

The commission agreed to look into Cornwall's handling of the issue.

Casey emphasized that the town has always been accommodating and supportive to creative ideas for land use, and expressed that it's important for regulations to allow the space for such applications to be heard.

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