



Special, Inside

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Small Business Spotlight, Page A2

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



PHOTO BY DEBRA ALEKSINAS
The forested stretch along the Housatonic River near the Route 128 covered bridge in Cornwall forms a vital east-west wildlife corridor.

New grant boosts effort to protect wildlife corridors in the Northwest Corner

By Debra A. Aleksinas

CORNWALL — Efforts to ensure bears, bobcats, deer and other species can move safely through the Northwest Corner's forests—and across its most hazardous roadways—are getting a boost, thanks to a \$30,000 grant awarded to the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) for its Follow the Forest initiative.

The grant, provided by the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation, will support HVA's ongoing work to safeguard key habitat linkages from the southern Hudson Valley north through Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and Vermont. Much of that work centers on the Northwest Corner, where fragmented forests, busy roads and development increasingly threaten the ability of wildlife to travel between habitats.

The corridor, a mosaic of ridgelines, wetlands and deep woods, is used by everything from moose and black bear to bobcats, foxes, turtles and amphibians. Conservationists say maintaining safe passage for these species is essential not only for biodiversity but also for clean water, clean air and climate-resilient

See WILDLIFE, Page A5

Wake surfing advocates challenge Lake Waramaug ban

By Alec Linden

A lake-use advocacy group is challenging Lake Waramaug's newly approved wake-surfing ban, claiming the tri-town ordinance was adopted improperly and without sufficient evidence.

The Lake Waramaug Friends for Common-Sense Regulation group announced on Nov. 19 that it had petitioned the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to overturn its October approval of the ban and instead implement consistent statewide regulations.

The group said the ban, adopted by a joint vote in Kent, Washington and Warren on July 31, is "arbitrary, unreasonable and overly restrictive," and unlawful because it "was realized based on insufficient evidence and without due process."

Wake surfing is a slow-moving tow sport in which participants ride a boat-generated wave created by ballasts and weighted tanks.

Over the past decade, the activity has surged in popularity on lakes



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

across North America, fueling regulatory disputes between supporters and critics.

Lake Waramaug is the second lake in Connecticut where voters have called for banning the sport.

The Lake Waramaug Friends group said the data used to shape the ordinance — drawn from a 2024 report by consulting firm Terra Vigilis — does not justify a full prohibition. That study examined the effect of large wake propagation on the lake bottom and found that wake boats operating in "surf mode" can move water down to 26 feet, potentially disturbing long-settled particles. But the report did not include a formal water-quality analysis to determine whether the sediment disruption actually harms the lake, a gap that opponents of the ban say undermines its environmental rationale.

Many long-time residents and

See WAKE SURFING, Page A10

See JUBILEE, Page A10

At Jubilee, Bunny Williams receives Estabrook leadership award

By Aly Morrissey

The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News presented the 2025 Estabrook Community Leadership Award to Bunny Williams on Nov. 22 at the Town Grove in Lakeville.

The award, named for longtime Lakeville Journal and Millerton News owners Robert and Mary Lou Estabrook, honors individuals who exemplify community spirit and leadership. This year's presentation took place during the newspapers'

As state considers kratom ban, Northwest Corner clinicians report rising dependence

By Debra A. Aleksinas

NORTH CANAAN — As Connecticut considers listing kratom as a Schedule I substance, Northwest Corner providers report a quiet but clear rise in dependence and withdrawal.

At Mountainside Treatment Center in North Canaan, clinicians say many people underestimate the drug's risks or misunderstand how it works.

"Many people assume kratom is a safe, natural alternative to opioids, but detoxing from kratom and 7-OH—its semi-synthetic potent derivative—can be just as complex," said Jana Wu, director of clinical integration at Mountainside. "We're seeing individuals struggle with dependence and withdrawal, often unaware of the risks."

Her concerns reflect a growing unease among clinicians across Litchfield County who say kratom—sold in gas stations, convenience stores, smoke shops, and online—is increasingly used to manage pain, anxiety, or to self-taper from opioids, even as little is known about potency or long-term safety.

Mountainside, the region's largest addiction-treatment provider, has reported a steady increase in kratom detox admissions. The center recently expanded virtual support groups and continues to warn about concentrated or synthetically enhanced kratom products marketed as opioid-like substitutes.

"Kratom needs to be classified

as a Schedule I drug so others can avoid this pain and loss, especially our children. It's called 'gas-station heroin' for a reason," said Doreen "Dori" Pinkerton, a Mountainside staff member and self-described "kratom survivor."

What is kratom?

Kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*) is a tropical tree native to Southeast Asia. Traditionally used in teas or chewed for mild stimulation, in the U.S. it is sold in capsules, powders, liquid shots and concentrated extracts—some containing amplified alkaloid levels or additives that differ significantly from natural preparations.

People use kratom for chronic pain, anxiety, coping with opioid withdrawal, or as an energy or mood enhancer. Risks include dependence, withdrawal, unpredictable potency, high concentrations of 7-hydroxymitragynine products, drug interactions, and respiratory depression when combined with sedatives. Kratom is not FDA-approved, and potency varies widely.

For many, kratom's low cost and the perception that "natural" means safe are powerful draws, especially in small towns with limited health-care options.

Local retailers say they try to offer guidance even as products vary widely in strength.

"I ask customers if [it's] for pain, sleeping or anxiety," said Mohammad Rahmen, an employee at

See KRATOM, Page A10



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Betsy Smith, Bunny Williams and Board Chair Dan Dwyer. For more photos, go to lakevillejournal.com



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In The Journal this week

REGIONAL.....A2	COMPASS.....B1-4
OUR TOWNS.....A3-5	CALENDAR.....B4
LEGALS.....A4	SPORTS.....B5
OPINION.....A6	CLASSIFIEDS.....B5
VIEWPOINT.....A7	SPECIALIST.....B6

Online This Week

Bunny Williams receives leadership award

Full coverage and photos from the Lakeville Journal and Millerton News Jubilee honoring Bunny Williams are online at lakevillejournal.com.

POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

The following information was provided by the Connecticut State Police at Troop B. All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Protective order violation arrest

On Nov. 12, Torrington GA 18 probation staff notified Troop B that Patrick John Jr. Piljar, 31, with a Canaan P.O. Box, had arrived at court for a check in and had an outstanding warrant out of Troop B for an incident dated to Oct. 15 of this year on Main Street in North Canaan. He was processed for violation of a standing criminal protective order, and was held on a \$10,000 cash bond before being brought to his arraignment.

Vehicle drives through road closure gate, flees

Sometime between 3 p.m. Nov. 12 and 5:45 a.m. Nov. 13, an unknown vehicle drove through a gate on Old Colony Road that was posted due to ongoing construction. The vehicle fled the scene. Anyone with information relating to the incident is asked to contact Troop B at 860-626-1820.

Criminal mischief arrest

Just after 9 p.m. on Nov. 13, troopers were dispatched to a West Main Street address in North Canaan on the report of an active disturbance. After investigating, troopers arrested Evan Clarke, 23, of North Canaan for third degree criminal mischief. He

was issued a misdemeanor or summons on a \$2,500 non-surety bond and is scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court on Nov. 24.

Disorderly conduct arrest

On Nov. 15, troopers served an active arrest warrant to Conner Benson, 31, of North Canaan for an incident dating to Aug. 29 of this year on College Hill Road. He was processed for disorderly conduct, and was subsequently released on a \$2,500 non-surety bond. He was scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court on Nov. 17.

Speeding in adverse weather accident

On the evening of Nov. 15, Christopher Porter, 36, of Southbury, Connecticut was traveling on Route 4 near the intersection with West Woods Road in Sharon when he swerved into the opposite lane to avoid a downed tree. He lost control and struck an embankment on the westbound shoulder of the road. Porter's Jaguar F-Type S was damaged in the incident and was towed from the scene. He reported minor injuries but declined medical intention. He was issued a written warning for traveling too fast for conditions.

The Lakeville Journal will publish the outcome of police charges. Send mail to P.O. Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039, Attn: Police Blotter, or email editor@lakevillejournal.com

Correcting Errors

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

Correction

Regarding the Nov. 20 soccer story, Ava Segalla's varsity goal total was 134.

Litchfield County registrars call for changes to early voting

By Ruth Epstein

SHARON – Elections are the foundation of a democracy and registrars of voters are the ones tasked with making sure they run smoothly and fairly.

While most voters in Litchfield County are used to seeing them manning the polls, few know the intricacies, attention to detail, and yes, sometimes the frustrations these elected local officials face in carrying out their duties, which are primarily spelled out in the statutes.

During last week's meeting of the Litchfield County Registrars of Voters of Connecticut, or ROVAC, some of those concerns were aired. Hosted by Sharon registrars, Democrat Marel Rogers and Republican Patricia Chamberlain, the meeting focused on the recent municipal elections.

Barbara Crouch, president of ROVAC, was the guest speaker. She talked about the topic that appeared to be on most minds: early voting.

Registrars had to provide 14 days of early voting for the election. Opinions are split in terms of its success, she said, although there is a push calling on state legislators to shorten the period.

She hopes the legislature will also bring up the issue of tabulators, she told those assembled. Some of the procedures having to be followed are archaic and can be done online, she said, and there are some technical things the association would like to get rid of.

"I heard about the inability to get responses from the Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas' office," said Crouch. "It was stressful for her. That office needs more organization. We're trying to forge a better relationship with her. We should be working together. We want a more collaborative relationship with her. Everyone's agenda is safe, fair, clear elections."

Crouch said the association would like to get the number of early voting days



PHOTO RUTH EPSTEIN

Barbara Crouch, president of the Registrar of Voters Association of Connecticut, addresses the Litchfield chapter at a meeting in Sharon on Nov. 18.

reduced to 10 and that they not have to be instituted for primaries.

There were many examples of low turnout during early voting. Crouch said most colleges had no students appear.

The expense to towns was a main objection, with some registrars saying residents have no idea what such a schedule costs.

One meeting attendee said she was thanked for volunteering her time, and that she had to explain that the poll workers were getting paid.

Sherri Gray of Colebrook said her town had the lowest turnout for early voting at 43. Another attendee said it's not just about cost, but the more days allows for more of a chance for mistakes because the poll workers are tired.

John Morton of Warren shared a letter he sent to his state representative and senator. He did extensive calculations, noting that 194 of the town's 1,115 registered voters, or 17. 4% of eligible voters, cast their ballots early. The

early voting cost the town \$7,440, resulting in a per-voter cost of \$38.35. Many voters, he said, expressed that 14 days felt excessive.

"Additionally, the state's upcoming implementation of no-excuse absentee ballots will further expand voting access," wrote Morton.

"With this new option available in future elections, a shorter early-voting period will continue to provide voters with ample opportunity to cast a ballot while reducing the staffing and financial burden on small towns like ours. We respectfully encourage you to consider revising the early voting requirement to a seven-day period. This provides a full working week of early voting for residents, maintains accessibility, and significantly reduces municipal costs."

This election was also the first using the new tabulators which are made by ES & S. Examples of problems were given, but most of those present said the kinks were eventually worked out.

"We are elected officials," said Lisa Amatruda of Woodbury, chairman of the Litchfield County association. "For us this is not a job, it's a passion."

Ski Swap and Sale Dec. 6

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Winter Sports Association's annual Ski Swap and Sale will take place on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Lakeville Hose Company firehouse on Brook Street.

Proceeds from the sale will benefit several SWSA youth ski programs.

The sale will include a large display of new winter sports equipment and clothing, including ski hats, gloves, goggles, socks, as well as downhill and cross-country skis, boots and bindings. Snowshoes, parkas and other winter wear will also be sold

at discount prices.

Those wishing to sell equipment must bring their items to the firehouse on Friday, Dec. 5, between 4 and 7 p.m. No equipment will be accepted on the day.

Sellers may return on Saturday between 11 a.m. and noon to pick up their proceeds or retrieve any unsold items. All funds from individual sales go directly to the seller — SWSA does not take a commission.

Any equipment not claimed by noon will become the property of SWSA. For more information, visit www.jumpfest.org

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Our Towns



PHOTO BY PATRICK L.SULLIVAN
A sign on Water Street in Falls Village on Wednesday, Nov. 19 warned motorists—somewhat obliquely—that the bridge was closed to through traffic.

Amesville Bridge work now complete

By Patrick L. Sullivan

AMESVILLE — Motorists who rely on the bridge over the Housatonic River between the Amesville section of Salisbury and Falls Village can breathe easier: the work is now finished, according to Salisbury officials.

In recent weeks, drivers had encountered periodic, unannounced closures as crews worked on the span. At the Falls Village Board of Selectmen's meeting Monday, Nov. 10, a resident noted that no signs had been posted on the Falls Village side to alert motorists when the bridge was closed.

The intermittent closures — along with crews and heavy equipment stationed on the bridge — continued through Wednesday, Nov. 19. By then, a sign on the Falls Village side warned that the

road was closed to through traffic, though it did not specifically reference the bridge.

On Thursday morning, Nov. 20, Emily Egan, the Salisbury selectmen's administrative assistant, confirmed that the project had wrapped up.

"They came in yesterday and told us they were done," she said.

Egan said the work increased the bridge's weight capacity to meet current standards.

The structure — known to Salisbury residents as the Amesville Bridge and to Falls Village residents as the Water Street or Iron Bridge — was deemed unsafe by the state Department of Transportation in 2012 and closed for four years. Following extensive planning and debate, a new bridge was constructed and opened in May 2016.

Angels needed for Cornwall's Christmas Pageant Dec. 20

CORNWALL — The annual Community Christmas Pageant will be held at the United Church of Christ on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 7:30 p.m.

Children, teens and young adults interested in being an angel should contact Katie Freygang at 860-488-0204 or Chris Gyorsok at clgyorsok@gmail.com.

Sharon affordable housing development gets zoning approval

By Alec Linden

SHARON — A long-planned affordable housing project received a retroactive green light from Sharon's Planning and Zoning Commission on Wednesday, Nov. 12 — nearly two months after the development team held a ceremonial groundbreaking.

The proposal calls for converting the town's out-of-use Community Center on Gay Street into four new affordable housing units. Those apartments will join the six existing units in the adjacent buildings, which are slated for repairs and exterior improvements.

The Sharon Housing Trust, which is overseeing the development, envisions the site as an affordable housing campus with a unified and attractive design. Plans are being prepared by Lynden B. Miller, a landscape and garden designer.

Although the Community Center remains town-owned, the building has been leased to the Housing Trust for 99 years. Earlier this year, the organization secured \$2 million in long-awaited state funding to advance the project.

In late September, the Housing Trust held a celebratory event with State Rep. Ma-

ria Horn (D-64), Sharon First Selectman Casey Flanagan, and state Housing Commissioner Seila Mosquera-Bruno to mark the anticipated start of construction.

At the time, however, the project did not have formal zoning approval. That issue was resolved on Nov. 12, when P&Z granted its approval following a brief public hearing, with no residents commenting.

The Housing Trust did not have a representative at the meeting. However, Land Use Administrator Jamie Casey presented the plans, while recommending that the Commission require additional clarity around waste management and exterior lighting.

Commissioners ultimately approved the project with conditions, directing the Trust to identify a designated waste collection area and incorporate a lighting plan into the final site plans. Any lighting, they noted, must be downward-facing to avoid disturbing neighboring properties.

After the meeting, Sharon Housing Trust board member Andrew Ferentinos — a professional architect who has helped plan the Community Center conversion — said he was encouraged by the Commission's decision.

He noted that the project still requires approval from the Historic District Commission for changes to windows and fencing, as well as a formal confirmation from the Sewer and Water Commission that the building can be served by town water and sewer — reviews he is confi-

dent will not pose an issue. He said the development has the potential to "set a standard" for affordable housing in Sharon. "Let's do a really good job here and demonstrate to the town that affordable housing can be something that is attractive to the community," he said.

Farm-use changes and keeping chickens

The P&Z meeting also saw the discussion of two proposed changes to Sharon's agricultural zoning regulations. One proposal was approved.

An amendment that allows for "accessory" uses on Sharon's farms — such as breweries, farm-to-table dinners and miscellaneous events — was passed by the Commission with the stipulation that farms must be at least 10 acres and that agriculture remains the dominant use on the property.

During earlier deliberations, Sharon resident and Board of Finance member Carol Flaton cautioned that the amendment's language is too vague and could create opportunities for developers to misuse the provision in ways that might harm the town.

Casey and several commissioners, however, countered that the public hearing process serves as an important safeguard, giving the town discretion to determine whether a specific application is inappropriate.

The second proposed change, which remains under review, would establish explicit regulations for keeping small animals — such as chickens, ducks and rabbits — on smaller residential parcels. The Commission is modeling

the proposal on ordinances adopted in other Connecticut towns that permit limited numbers of chickens and similarly sized animals on compact properties.

The action stems from a neighborhood dispute on Sharon Valley Road, where residents Letitia and Brian Brazee have repeatedly complained to Town Hall about disturbances caused by chickens on an adjacent property. The Land Use Office has been unable to intervene because the town currently has no regulations that directly address the keeping of chickens on small residential parcels — a gap this amendment is intended to fill.

The details of the amendment are still being developed, but the commission indicated that properties under one acre would likely be permitted — via an application process — to keep a small flock of about six birds, provided they are housed in an enclosure that meets setback requirements from neighboring property lines and from wetlands or watercourses.

Brian Brazee, who attended the Nov. 12 meeting, expressed frustration with the proposed amendment, arguing that the neighboring property owner should not be permitted to keep chickens at all. "There's just not enough room in that area," he told the Commission.

Before the regulation can be adopted, the amendment must be drafted, reviewed by the town attorney and the Northwest Hills Council of Governments, and then scheduled for a public hearing.

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Our Towns

Cornwall selectmen open new term by filling key committee seats

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — At the first meeting of the newly seated Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, Nov. 18, members made a series of committee appointments.

The meeting marked the debut of Selectman John Brown, elected on Nov. 4. He joins First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, now entering his 18th term, and Selectman Rocco Botto, who is beginning his second term.

Appointments were approved for several town boards and commissions. Named to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency were Ian Tyson, Deb Bennett, Jeff Morgan, Peter Demy, Bill Hurlburt and Gil Rubino (alternate).

Michelle Shipp and Stacey Dolan were appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission; Bianka Griggs to the Economic Development Committee; Josh Tyson as the town's representative to the Torrington Area Health District; and Mare Rubin to the Western Connecticut Visitors Bureau.

"It's very important we appoint all of them so they can continue their work," said Ridgway.

Ridgway also noted a number of vacancies still to be filled—one seat on the Conservation Commission, two seats and one alternate for Parks and Recreation, one member needed for Grange Hall Trust Fund,

one alternate for the Housatonic River Commission, two seats on the Cream Hill Lake Study Group and two alternate openings on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Firetruck update

Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department President Dick Sears attended the meeting to submit specifications for two new firetrucks.

The big package was described as "flexible" and is expected to entice competitive bids. The vendors will submit designs that meet the specifications.

"It's got to fit in the firehouse," said Botto. "And the covered bridge," said Sears.

Sears said CVFD's fundraising campaign, which has a goal of \$600,000, has gone "exceptionally well." Donations will be paired with the town's truck fund reserves and CVFD savings.

The selectmen moved to go out to bid on the spec sheet for a custom rescue pumper and a mini pumper. "Bids would be due in about a month," said Ridgway. "Then we have 60 days to do our due diligence."

Retirement party Dec. 7

Town Hall is planning a retirement party for two outgoing officials with more than 40 years of combined service.

Vera Dinneen, who served as town clerk, and Jean Bouteiller, former tax collector, will be celebrated on Sunday, Dec. 7, from 1 to 3 p.m. The public is invited.

High Watch proposal prompts questions about public safety

By Alec Linden

KENT — A proposal to revise several conditions on High Watch Recovery Center's special permit drew sharp objections from a small group of residents at the Planning and Zoning Commission's Nov. 13 meeting, with opponents arguing the changes would jeopardize public safety.

High Watch, a substance use disorder treatment facility on Carter Road, is seeking to modify or eliminate seven of the 34 conditions placed on its 2019 permit. CEO Andrew Roberts said some provisions are outdated, unnecessary or conflict with federal law.

At the center of residents' concerns were two proposed changes. One would amend a condition requiring High Watch to notify police and the first selectman whenever a patient leaves the facility without authorization. Roberts said the rule violates federal confidentiality law and puts both the center and P&Z at legal risk. Under the proposed change, law enforcement would be contacted only if an absent patient poses a risk to themselves or others.

The second contentious proposal would remove a condition barring High Watch from accepting patients under legal custody or those mandated by a court to attend treatment.

Roberts said the change reflects common practice for individuals facing addiction-related charges, such as DUIs.

"We only admit people that are appropriate for this level of care," Roberts said. "There are not people being dropped off

in handcuffs, and we wouldn't accept people who are violent criminals... that would be a risk to our community, our staff, or otherwise."

During public comment, five residents spoke out against the proposed changes.

Karen Altfest, who lives two doors from High Watch, described seeing people wandering in the woods behind her home. "I don't know who they are but they sure as hell scare me," she said.

Lew and Ellen Altfest shared similar fears. "They're eroding the safety of our town," Ellen said. Lew added that he believes High Watch has not been sufficiently transparent with residents in the past, saying, "Who wants to fill up Kent with criminals?"

Roberts pushed back on those assertions. "There appears to be some sort of misinformation in the community," he said. "No one comes to High Watch under the auspices of the Department of Corrections."

He explained that while guests are supervised, they are not detained. "They come of their own free will, and they are entitled, because they are free people, to leave if they so choose."

Outgoing First Selectman Marty Lindenmayer cautioned against the language used by several speakers.

"The word 'criminal' has been thrown about here in an unbelievably improper manner," he said. "That's not what this community has been about."

Commission member Alice Hicks echoed that concern, but wanted more specifics

as to their complaints. "We need a little more clarification as to what the real complaint here is."

After the discussion, the Commission turned to the other modifications being sought. One would remove the requirement that High Watch contract with a private ambulance service.

Roberts said the center has a "positive" and mutually beneficial relationship with the Kent Volunteer Fire Department's EMS service, an assessment Ambulance Chief Mary Van Valkenburg affirmed.

Another amendment would allow guests to be admitted after 8 p.m. in circum-

stances such as flight delays, ensuring they are not turned away late at night.

High Watch further sought approval to add two beds to its medically intensive detox center.

Van Valkenburg said the EMS corps' relationship with the facility has been "pretty positive," but requested the application be tabled so the Volunteer Fire Department can review whether the additional beds might increase call volume. Commissioners agreed the potential impacts should be studied.

The hearing will continue at the Commission's next regular meeting on Dec. 11.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice
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 November 17, 2025:

Approved — Special Permit Application #2025-0303 by owner Camp Sloane YMCA Inc, to construct a detached apartment on a single family residential lot in accordance with Section 208 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 06 as Lot 01 and is located at 162 Indian Mountain Road, Lakeville.

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
11-27-25

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
CAMILLA D. CLONEY
Late of Salisbury
(25-00451)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 13, 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:
Peter Y. Gevalt
c/o Carrie Z Michaelis
Goulston & Storrs, 730
3rd
Avenue, 12th Floor, New
York, NY 10017
Megan M. Foley
Clerk
11-27-25

Notice of Decision
Town of Salisbury
Inland Wetlands
& Watercourses
Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on October 27, 2025:

Exempt -Application IWWC-25-75 by Elaine Watson for/to "Install a dock adjacent to the ordinary high-water mark of Lake Wononscopomuc. The proposed dock will be 4 feet wide and 45 feet long projecting into the lake,

The dock will be assembled offsite and floated to the property location from the Town Grove where it will be secured by steel posts anchored into the lakebed. The dock will be positioned within one foot of the shoreline to provide stable and convenient access to the water". The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map and lot 47 11 and is known as OSHARON ROAD,. The owner of the property is WATSON PAUL SURV & ELAINE SURV.

Any aggrieved person may appeal this decision to the Connecticut Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes §22a-43(a) & §8-8.

11-13-25
11-20-25
11-27-25

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
SUSAN T. VERETTO
Late of North Canaan
(25-00428)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 13, 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:
Jennifer Pierce
c/o Ellen C Marino
Ellen C Marino
596 Main Street
Winsted, CT 06098
Megan M. Foley
Clerk

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
ESTATE OF DAVID
ARTHUR WRIGHT
Late of Salisbury
AKA DAVID A.
WRIGHT
(25-00429)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated November 13, 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:
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c/o Linda M. Patz
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Our Towns

WILDLIFE

Continued from Page A1 ecosystems. “This collaboration work is essential to ensuring that wildlife can move, adapt and thrive on our landscape, now and into the future,” said Tim Abbott, HVA’s executive director. “We are deeply grateful to the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation for its support of our Follow the Forest efforts.”

The foundation was created for the purpose of protecting and improving the welfare of animals of all kinds as well as the protection of wildlife, including endangered species, flora and fauna.

Training community scientists

Over the next year, the funding will allow HVA and its partners to expand science, planning and land-protection readiness efforts. That includes training community scientists to study wildlife movement at more than 60 forest linkages across western Connecticut and neighboring Massachusetts, coordinating conservation planning among local and regional partners, and developing a new “Connectivity Implementation Framework” to guide the shift from mapping to on-the-ground action.

Julia Rogers, HVA’s conservation director, said the initiative’s strength lies in its broad coalition. “Follow the forest brings together more than 50 partners, from local and regional land trusts to national organizations, united by a shared conservation vision.”

Local land trusts say the regional scale of the work is vital, especially in the Northwest Corner, where wildlife movement crosses both town and state boundaries.

Brian Hagenbuch, executive director of the Steep Rock Association in Washington, Conn., said Follow the Forest “gives us the tools to connect the dots, literally, between the places we’ve already protected, and the ones identified that still need our attention.”

“Continued support for this work is a huge step that enables smaller organizations such as Steep Rock to collaborate on bigger landscape-scale preservation efforts that ensure wildlife can move safely and freely throughout our town and region,” he added.

HVA, which is the only conservation organization dedicated to the entire tri-state region, uses the Follow the Forest corridor map to guide land protection priorities, identify choke points where wildlife movement is threatened and highlight locations where easements or acquisitions could preserve safe passage.

Wildlife road-crossing hotspots

Conservation staff and volunteers working with the Follow the Forest initiative

have identified several high-risk wildlife road-crossing zones in the region, many located where forest blocks are pinched by pavement, guardrails or development. Among the areas receiving increased attention:

Route 7, Cornwall Bridge to Kent:

A major north-south travel route for the black bear, bobcat and moose, with recurring reports of crossings near the Housatonic River. According to HVA, the narrow forested connection east-west across Route 7 is a priority for long-term connectivity planning.

Route 41 between Sharon and Salisbury:

A significant movement corridor for deer, bobcats and small mammals. Steep slopes funnel wildlife directly toward the roadway, producing seasonal spikes in collisions.

Lime Rock Station Road/ Salmon Kill area, Salisbury:

Lowland wetlands attract amphibians and reptiles, especially during spring migration. Volunteers often monitor crossing nights to assist spotted salamanders and wood frogs.

Route 44 between Norfolk and North Canaan:

A wide-ranging habitat connection where bear, coyote and occasional moose move between large forest blocks on Canaan Mountain and the Haystack Mountain region.

West Cornwall Road/ Route 128 bridge area:

Forest on both sides of the Housatonic River creates a critical east-west linkage. Wildlife frequently attempts to cross road segments that narrow sharply near the bridge.

What to know about the CT housing bill passed in special session

By Ginny Monk CT Mirror

The House and Senate approved a wide-ranging housing bill earlier this month to replace a similar bill that Gov. Ned Lamont vetoed after the regular session.

House Bill 8002 requires towns to create housing growth plans, changes minimum off-street parking requirements, expands fair rent commissions and incentivizes towns to take steps to allow more housing, among other measures.

Its goal is to make it easier to build more housing in Connecticut. Housing costs have gotten more expensive and homelessness has risen over the past several years. Experts say there hasn’t been enough housing built in Connecticut to meet the need, which has made these and other issues worse.

Lamont is expected to sign the new bill, which he helped negotiate with local leadership. Here’s a breakdown of the housing legislation passed in the recent special session.

Why was there a special session?

During the regular session, the legislature passed a sweeping housing bill known as House Bill 5002, but Lamont vetoed the measure after facing opposition from local leaders. He said he wanted to find a way to get them on board with the measure.

After months of working on a new version of the bill, Lamont called the legislature into special session for

two days. The House met Wednesday, Nov. 12, and the Senate met the following day. They passed the housing bill in addition to three other bills.

Lamont has touted the new bill because local leaders, who broadly opposed the old bill, have signed on. A bipartisan group of mayors and first selectmen spoke at a press conference in support of the new bill.

Democrats said they wanted to get a bill passed to meet the need for more housing as soon as possible, while Republicans criticized the special session, saying the bill should have been brought in regular session when the public could read it and comment.

What will change in my town’s zoning?

Some of that isn’t clear yet and is up to your town. The bill requires towns to create housing growth plans, with goals on how many units they’ll plan and zone for.

If towns create these plans or take certain steps to add more housing near train and bus stations or in downtowns, they’ll have access to a new state fund and can get more state reimbursement for what they spend on school construction.

The bill also says that towns can’t require developers who build new apartments with fewer than 16 units to add off-street parking, with a couple of exceptions.

Democrats and housing advocates say these measures will help push towns to build more housing because

a lot of local zoning makes it hard to build apartments. Republicans fear it will reduce local control.

What else is in the bill?

This is a big bill that deals with a lot of different issues. It expands the number of fair rent commissions, which is a government body that can hear complaints about rent increases and make decisions on whether to change that rental increase number.

It bans “hostile architecture,” or the use of things like armrests in the middle of benches or spikes to make it harder for people experiencing homelessness to lie down.

It also establishes the Connecticut Department of Housing as a statewide housing authority, which means they can work with towns to build more housing and build on state land.

How is this different from the old bill?

This bill has a lot of simi-

larities to the old bill. Many Democrats who worked on the bill said the majority has stayed the same; it’s mostly the zoning portions that have changed.

One difference is the creation of the state fund to encourage towns to participate in the programs to increase housing density near public transit and in downtowns. The former bill had measures that would have prioritized certain existing infrastructure funding for towns that decided to make certain zoning changes.

It also eliminates a process known as “fair share” that assigned each town a specific number of units to plan and zone for. Instead, regional councils of government will figure out how many units each town needs to plan for. Towns can either participate in the plans from the COGs or create their own plans and their own goals.



Worship Services

Week of November 30, 2025

Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon

9 South Main, Sharon CT
Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M.
Transitioning through prayer
All welcome to join us
860-364-5260
www.christchurchsharon.org

Trinity Episcopal Church

484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville
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Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.
Livestream at 10:30 found at
www.trinitylimerock.org
trinity@trinitylimerock.org
(860) 435-2627

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www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational
860-824-7232

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

The Lakeville United Methodist Church

319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039
9:15 a.m. Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
“Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors”
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-435-9496
Lakevillemethodist@snet.net

Falls Village Congregational Church

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

The Sharon United Methodist Church

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

The Smithfield Presbyterian Church

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Sharon Congregational

25 Main Street, Sharon, CT
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Visit our website
sharoncongregationalchurch.org
for Sunday services
Contact us at 860-364-5002 or
info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org

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Priest-in-Charge
In-Person and on You-Tube
www.stjohnssalisbury.org

Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT

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For information, contact Jo Loi
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8:00AM - Worship Service
2nd & 4th Sunday
“Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors”
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-824-5534
canaanct-umc.com
canaanctumc@gmail.com
We hope you will join us!

PHOTO PROVIDED

Coats for Kids

Members of the Knights of Columbus Berkshire Council No. 1520 distributed coats at the Bitterman Center in North Canaan on Thursday, Nov. 13, for children in Salisbury, North Canaan, Falls Village and Norfolk. Since 2009, the Coats for Kids Program has provided warm winter coats to children living in cold climates across the United States and Canada. This year 72 coats were distributed for kids in this region. From left: Jerry Baldwin, Steve Allyn, Theresa Grainey and Dave Barger.

Cornwall to hold Parade of Lights Dec. 21

CORNWALL — This holiday season, Cornwall will begin a new tradition: The Parade of Lights.

Local businesses, community groups, clubs, families and individuals are invited to participate in the parade. Float trucks, trac-

tors, cars and wagons are encouraged.

The parade will take place in Cornwall Village on Sunday, Dec. 21. Line up begins at 5:30 p.m. and the procession steps off at 6 p.m.

To register a float, contact Jane Hall at 860-689-6992.

YOUR NEWS

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The Lakeville Journal - The Millerton News

The season of thanks

As we enter the season of gratitude, we want to say this plainly: thank you for reading, for engaging, and for believing that our towns deserve strong local news.

We look forward to another year of telling the stories of this region — and we're grateful to everyone who helps make it possible.

Giving Thanks – It's a A National Trait



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VIEWPOINT

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

125 years ago — November 1900

Mark Twain is all the rage at present and we wonder how long it will be before the public finds a new idol. We have had Dewey and Hobson but both “slopped over.” Let us hope that Mark will not do anything foolish to upset his popularity.

A thin coating of ice formed over a large part of Factory Pond Tuesday night for the first time this season.

About 200 tons of ore are being shipped in car loads from Kent Furnace to Copake Iron Works.

LIME ROCK — Last Saturday morning five hoboes left their nest among the warm car-wheel pits in the foundry and went in quest of the usual handout. At one house one of the pilgrims, after gulping a toothsome feed, sent in word to the “old man” requesting a cigar, but adding that there was no compulsion in the matter and no hard feelings would be harbored in case no cigar was handy. All this in a state amply provided with tramp laws. The “Weary Willies” have been too numerous hereabouts this season.

B.F. Hoyt has put in a long distance telephone. His call is 4-15.

Alden Green, who was best known around Litchfield County as the Norfolk “chair man,” having for the past 30 years made and peddled chairs in all parts of northwestern Connecticut, died in his home at Canaan Valley last week Wednesday morning at the age of 70 years. He was a Seven Day Adventist and a strict vegetarian and it is said did not know the taste of liquor or tobacco. For the past 30 years he lived without eating meat or fish of any kind and subsisted wholly on vegetables and fruit. He is survived by a widow who is also prominent in Advent circles.

Miles Roberts ate Turkey at his parents home in Canaan.

E.A. Eldredge has a very artistic and amusing frog show in his front windows. It attracts the attention of all who pass that way.

Following out a custom of years the Holley Manufacturing Co. on Wednesday presented every married man in their employ with a fine plump turkey for the Thanksgiving dinner.

The steam shovel has finished its work at State Line and the rails will soon be down. The railroad company will use the new Y for the switching and turning of trains.

The noon express train on Monday carried twenty five tons of turkeys. The birds were taken in at different points along the western end of the road and shipped east to supply the Thanksgiving trade.

Russell Miller has just equipped his residence with steam heat. The apparatus is one of the new ideas, is attached to the kitchen range instead of a furnace, thus one



PHOTO BY MARIA VEGA

Adhara, one of The Journal's youngest readers

fire warms the house perfectly without interfering with the work of the range and uses no more coal.

100 years ago — November 1925

H. Roscoe Brinton is driving a new Paige car.

LIME ROCK — Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Metcalf have moved their sawmill to Ancram Lead Mines.

It is reported that out of town parties have bought all the Salisbury Iron Corp. property.

LIME ROCK — Mrs. Gillette received word from Bridgeport that her son, Charles Gillette, fell and broke his leg.

Dick Wilson and his men are giving the Hose House a new coat of paint which greatly improves its appearance.

A.C. Roberts had the misfortune to fall down the cellar stairs at the store on Monday night, receiving a broken thumb on his right hand and a bruise on the head. When starting to go down the stairs he stepped upon one of the store cats, causing him to lose his balance.

50 years ago — November 1975

A snowy owl that migrated to the Northwest Corner from the northern recesses of Canada and was observed by avid bird watchers in the area was reported dead this week. Death of the female snowy owl was attributed to natural causes by Robert Moeller, director of the Sharon Audubon Center. Moeller said the owl only weighed half of what it should have weighed, ruling out the likelihood of foul play in the death of the predatory bird. Moeller said the snowy owl was found lying dead on a woodpile by a farmer.

Work is expected to start soon on a new larger water line from Route 44 in the center of Lakeville up Montgomery Street to the intersection of Wells Hill Road.

NORFOLK — Funny thing about cats. You often hear tales about them showing precognition or extra-sensory perception, and here is a tale that seems to indicate something of the sort. Last September Bart VanWhy, son of Mr. and Mrs. John VanWhy of Greenwood Road, went off to St. Bonaventure College in Olean, N.Y. Within a week

the black and white family cat, Mono, disappeared. Despite an extensive search and food left outdoors, Mono remained among the missing. Bart feared he had been killed. Last Friday Bart was scheduled to return home for Thanksgiving. At 6 p.m., five hours before he arrived, Mono appeared on the premises, sleek and well-fed, but with no explanation of where he had been or why he had returned. Bart could scarcely believe it, and now the VanWhys are wondering what will happen when he goes back to college.

25 years ago — November 2000

SHARON — SBA Inc., at the request of the Planning and Zoning Commission, will fly a demonstration balloon at 477 Route 7 Nov. 30, Dec. 1 and 2, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., weather and wind conditions permitting. The balloon is being flown in connection with SBA's application to construct a 150-foot wireless telecommunications facility at that site.

Following a unanimous vote to name the Rev. Scott Cady moderator of Cornwall's town meeting Saturday night, First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, thinking nationally, asked “Anyone want a recount?”

CANAAN — The Sand Road property which Phoenix Horizon Corp. tried to develop into a cluster housing site appears destined to remain “as is.” Three parcels of land were sold off last week, while a fourth and final piece is under contract. John and Helen Mahoney of Canaan bought the stone house that sits at the bottom of the hillside property, along with an additional 20 acres. Klemm Real Estate agent Michael Conlogue said the Mahoneys closed last week on two of the four subdivisions of the 66-acre property. Their plans are to renovate the home and move there.

The Sunday in the Country Crew, including radio station WQQQ's Bob Chatfield, “NASCAR” Dave MacMillen, Randy “The Commander” Christensen and “Nitro” Dave Watts, along with many other volunteers, collected \$9,000 in cash and donations that will feed at least 1,000 people this Thanksgiving.

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

OUR TOWNS

Salisbury awarded \$800K for new sidewalk linking Hotchkiss to Lakeville

By Alec Linden

LAKEVILLE – Salisbury has been awarded \$800,000 in state funds to construct a sidewalk connecting the Hotchkiss School to downtown Lakeville, the Governor's office announced on Monday, Nov. 17.

The project, years in the making, calls for a sidewalk along the western, south-bound side of Sharon Road as it winds down the hill from the boarding school's campus, connecting with the existing walkway between Main Street and Wells Hill Road.

Although open to everyone, the new path is designed chiefly to give Hotchkiss School students a safer way to

walk to and from town, replacing the current practice of using the narrow — and at times blind — roadway shoulder.

The project has drawn strong support from residents and the town's land use commissions alike, who agree that action is needed to address the safety hazard.

A September 2025 “Road Safety Audit” conducted by the state Department of Transportation found that the stretch of Sharon Road between the school and downtown poses a particular risk to pedestrians, citing frequent student use of the roadway shoulder and a high incidence of speeding along the route.

Salisbury's award comes through the DOT's Com-

munity Connectivity Grant Program and represents the maximum amount available for a single project. In this funding round, the state distributed \$12 million to 17 municipalities.

First Selectman Curtis Rand said he was gratified that the funds had been awarded so that the project can begin in earnest. He said the next steps are to finalize plans and specifications, which the DOT will need to approve before construction can begin, and to collaborate with Hotchkiss on “how to proceed together.”

The school has indicated it will contribute funding to the project, although the amount has yet to be determined.

Sharon writer shares veterans' stories in Gladwell's podcast

By Aly Morrissey

SHARON — After 20 years as a magazine editor with executive roles at publishing giants like Condé Nast and Hearst, Meredith Rollins never imagined she would become the creative force behind a military history podcast. But today, she spends her days writing about some of the most heroic veterans in United States history for “Medal of Honor: Stories of Courage,” a podcast produced by Malcolm Gladwell's company, Pushkin Industries.

From her early days in book publishing to two decades in magazines and later a global content strategist for Weight Watchers, Rollins has built a long and varied career in storytelling.

“I've learned a lot with each career shift, but the higher I went up the masthead, the less it was about writing and editing,” said Rollins. “I missed the creative process.”

While the podcast isn't her first writing project, it marks her first foray into audio storytelling.

“During the pandemic I used to listen to mostly true crime podcasts when I was doing the laundry, driving my kids somewhere or working in the garden,” she said.

Now Rollins gets to write a podcast, and approaches each episode with awe and a reporter's curiosity.

After 30 years of friendship with Malcolm Gladwell, the pair decided to collaborate on a project that would combine their shared journalism roots with stories that celebrate bravery and courage.

“Malcolm approached me about a project, and he was looking for a subject that he believed would really bring people together in this fractured political time we're going through,” said Rollins.

Enter “Medal of Honor.” The podcast's namesake is the highest U.S. military decoration for valor, awarded for “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty.”

Each episode brings to life the story of a Medal of Honor recipient — often with the cinematic pacing and emotional resonance of a feature film.

Medal of Honor released its second season this sum-



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Meredith Rollins, a Sharon resident, is the writer behind Malcolm Gladwell's Pushkin Industries podcast, Medal of Honor: Stories of Courage. The series explores the acts of courage that earned the recipients the highest U.S. military award for bravery. Season two was released this summer and Rollins reveals that a third season is on its way.

mer, and production on a third season is underway. While Season One was narrated by Gladwell himself, Season Two introduced a new voice with firsthand experience. J.R. Martinez is a former U.S. Army soldier, author, motivational speaker and winner of Dancing with the Stars Season 13.

Writing for two very different narrators, Rollins said, has been both a challenge and a joy.

“As we've gotten to know each other and gotten deeper into this project together, I can almost predict how J.R. will react to certain moments,” she said. “He brings so much heart and humanity to the stories.”

Both her father and father-in-law served as Marines, but Rollins said military history was never top of mind until Gladwell pitched her the idea.

“The deeper you get into a subject you don't know

about, the more excited you get about it,” she said. “It's been a way for me to learn about the incredible sacrifice woven into our country's history.”

Rollins approaches each episode of Medal of Honor by looking first at the act of sacrifice itself, which she describes as “a moment that often happens in a flash.”

She dives deep into research, gathering biographical details from their upbringing and motivations to the circumstances that led them into combat. She then recreates the atmosphere of the conflict, setting the scene with vivid historical detail.

“These men would tell you they were just average guys,” said Rollins. “And if you believe that, then you have to believe we're all capable of that same bravery or selflessness. It has really shown me the incredible courage we all have, and our ability to do right in the world.”

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In a world that has echoes of Germany in the 1930s with brownshirts forcibly rounding up immigrants, it is a wonderful respite to follow the adventures of these three aging nuns in Austria who have defied the Church authorities by escaping the nursing home that confined them and who have returned to their beloved cloister. This was only possible with the help of the local community who have provided all the support necessary for them to stay. What I love is both this support from past students and that they have become social media stars for their resistance. NPR has a delightful article about them which can be viewed at: www.npr.org/2025/11/04/g-s1-95178/austrian-nuns-flee. For the Sisters' Instagram account, please see @nonnen_goldenstein. This will brighten your day!

JOHN HARNEY
Associate Broker with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Office: 19 Main Street, Salisbury, CT 06068
Email: jharney@wpsir.com
Cell: 860-921-7910
Instagram: @johnharneyjr

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Kent home prices hit year’s high as sales volume slows

By Christine Bates

In October, single-family home sales in Kent reached a median price of \$565,000 — the highest so far this year, though still below the 2024 summer peak of \$753,000. Over September and October, the town clerk recorded 10 property transfers: one vacant lot, two condominiums and seven single-family homes. Three of those homes sold for more than \$1 million, while four closed below \$500,000.

The volume of closed sales has slowed notably compared to the pandemic boom, when Kent saw 11 to 12 home sales per month.

In 2025, monthly sales have generally fallen to four or fewer. Inventory also remains tight, particularly in the more affordable range. Of the 11 homes currently on the market, eight are listed above \$1 million and just one is priced below \$500,000.

Transactions

South Kent Road – 2.71 acres of vacant land sold by Leslie S Fink to Charles W and Charlene A Weigel for \$148,000

12 Spectacle Ridge Road – 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home on 8.33 acres sold by Avi Rosenbluth and Ilana Grossman to Philip Degisi and Alanna Hynes for \$1,124,000

15 Woodin Road – 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home on 9.71 acres sold by Jana Kolpen to A Room of Ones Own LLC for \$1,335,000

80 North Main Street, Unit 5B5 – 2 bedroom/1.5 bath condo sold by Kelli J Baldrick to Kevin R Alger for \$439,000



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

The antique colonial home at 310 South Kent Road — 2,596 square feet with hand-hewn beams and a three-car garage — sold for \$540,000. Photo by Christine Bates.

28 Davis Road – 3 bedroom/2 bath home on 1 acres sold by Cheryl M and Edward Burke Jr. to Santiago Martinez Govela Trustee, David Road Trust and Jeanette Osterhout Trustee for \$450,000

73 Kent Cornwall Road

– 2 bedroom/1 bath cottage on 1.8 acres sold by Colleen McGrath to Jason Drozd for \$381,000

310 South Kent Road – 5 bedroom/3 bath home on .42 acres sold by Hosanna A Fox and David P Markowski to Virginia A and Pierfilippo

De Santis for \$540,000
7 Pheasant Run, Unit 1 – 3 bedroom/1.5 bath condo sold by Christina Marie Woodard to Ashley Joanne Obrien for \$315,000

128 South Kent Road – 2 bedroom/2 bath home on 1.39 acres sold by John J and Jenifer S Kelly to Daniel D Palumbo for \$410,000

15 Stonewall Road – Newly constructed 4 bedroom/3.5 bath homes on 12.93 acres sold by Whitehall Construction LLC to Daniel and Melissa Fuschillo for \$1,350,000 – the highest sale in September and October.

** Town of Kent real estate transfers recorded as sold between September 1, 2025, and October 31, 2025, provided by Kent Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Property details from CT Vision tax cards. Current market listings and market data from Smart MLS. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby’s International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.*

Kent selectmen begin new term with lengthy to-do list

By Alec Linden

KENT — With a new Board of Selectmen now in office, members are taking up several ordinance proposals left unresolved by the previous administration.

On Monday, Nov. 10, just days before officially taking office, incoming First Selectman Eric Epstein and incoming Selectman Lynn Harrington met with outgoing officials Marty Lindenmayer and Glenn Sanchez, along with returning Selectman Lynn Mellis Worthington, for a transition meeting.

The group reviewed three proposed ordinances that the previous board had intended to bring to a town meeting before the election but could not schedule due to holiday conflicts.

The first, the “Restriction of Commercial Bus Travel” ordinance, calls for banning tour buses from using Bulls Bridge Road and Spooner Hill Road. The measure stems from resident complaints about large commercial vehicles navigating the narrow, winding South Kent Road.

After a New Milford resident raised the issue, New Milford, Kent and state transportation officials have vowed to keep the vehicles — most bound for Club Getaway — off the dangerous stretch of roadway.

The second proposal, the “Placement of Material in the Public Right of Way” ordinance — which Lindenmayer jokingly referred to as the “stuff in the road” ordinance at an earlier meeting

— would ban residents and business operators from placing debris or other materials, including leaves and trash, in the roadway unless they are removed immediately.

The third proposal, the “Purchasing Ordinance,” would grant the town sole authority over soliciting bids and contracting for services related to municipal projects.

All three ordinances were the subject of a joint public hearing in September. Since the required two-week period between a hearing and a town meeting vote has lapsed, the new board will need to schedule fresh public hearings if it chooses to advance the proposals.

The officials also discussed the expected passage of a revised statewide housing bill. The original legislation, House Bill 5002, was vetoed by Gov. Ned Lamont in June after sparking sharp debate: affordable housing advocates supported it, while opponents argued it stripped planning and zoning authority from local officials. The revised bill, renumbered 8002, passed the state Senate on Friday, Nov. 14, several days after the transition meeting.

Lindenmayer described 8002 as a compromise, though some housing advocates say it lacks the urgency needed to address what the governor has called a “housing crisis.”

With several significant housing proposals before the Planning and Zoning Commission, affordable housing is expected to remain a central issue as the new Board of Selectmen assumes office.

Falls Village approves funding for new Historic District signs

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — At the regular monthly meeting on Nov. 10, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to approve approximately \$3,500 for new signs that will mark the Historic District. The vendor is Giordano Signs of Torrington, with installation

tentatively set for spring 2026.

The board also discussed new wiring on the town Green and in the downtown area for Christmas lights but ultimately tabled the matter. The lighting will remain the same as last year.

In other business, the selectmen voted unanimously to reappoint Tax Collector

Rebecca Juchert-Derungs to a new four-year term.

Selectman Judy Jacobs reported that the Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society is planning events for next year’s 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, including a “scaled reenactment” as part of the celebration.

SAVE MILLERTON — SAVE NORTH EAST

Secret Big-Box Rezoning Is Shock to the Holiday Season

There’s a name for what people feel in November and December — the holiday blues, the year-end burnout, the season when families are overloaded with work, school, travel, finances, and freezing weather. It’s the hardest time of year to focus on anything beyond basic life management.

And right into that moment, just days before Thanksgiving, the Town of North East dropped a 181-page zoning overhaul — a college-textbook-sized homework assignment handed to residents at the worst possible time. The kicker is that this massive tome was released to the taxpayers funding the work AFTER it was submitted to Dutchess County. We all have until January 8th to study up!

And the public notice — the only legal warning residents get — **does not even remotely resemble what is actually being proposed. Not in a million years.** It reads like a routine clerical update, the municipal equivalent of: “Don’t worry, we’ve got this handled — go enjoy your holiday with your family.”

Meanwhile, inside the actual document is a sweeping redevelopment blueprint for Route 44:

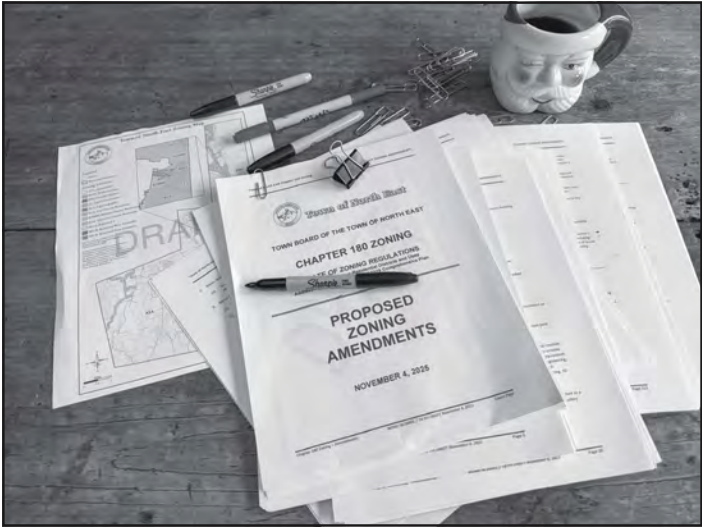
12,000-sq-ft footprints, 36,000-sq-ft mixed-use buildings, 35,000-sq-ft grocery stores, and a new allowance for parcels over 10 acres to develop up to half their land area.

This is the size of major hotels, regional commercial centers, and destination-scale development — the exact pattern that has hollowed out small towns across America.

And here is the part no resident should overlook:

Three of the main braintrusts architecting this plan — Supervisor Kennan, Town Attorney Replansky, and consultant Will Agresta — do not pay property taxes in the Town of North East.

Yet they are making decisions that raise our taxes, increase our debt, and



reshape the future of a town they do not financially support.

1. A Zoning Overhaul Dropped During Holiday Chaos

A 181-page overhaul — the largest zoning change in town history — released during the busiest weeks of the year, with zero public education and a notice that disguises the actual content. Entire districts are rewritten. Oversized commercial uses appear out of nowhere. The new “alternative performance modifications” allow large projects to bypass long-standing protections with minimal scrutiny.

The timing appears not accidental — but planned with sniper-like precision.

2. The Grocery Store Double Game

In April 2025, the Town Planning Board approved a 29,000-sq-ft grocery store at Millerton Square. The Supervisor publicly celebrated it. Residents were told it was the long-awaited answer to our food desert.

But by fall, the plaza was still in disrepair — open roof leaks, broken

pavement, no operational timeline.

Then the zoning overhaul appeared — and inside it, the Town raised the allowable size of grocery stores to 35,000 sq ft in the same district.

So which version was true?

The one sold to residents for two years?

Or the version buried in the new code that enables a larger competitor?

Who does that benefit? Because it’s not the taxpayers — and certainly not the project the Town said it supported.

3. The Sewer District: Taxpayers Pay, Developers Profit

In 2022, the Town engineered a sewer district plan that almost perfectly tracks the Route 44 commercial zoning corridor. The district includes 28 commercial parcels and excludes nearly every residential neighborhood.

Yet the residents of North East — most of whom will never be connected to the system — will help carry a multi-million-dollar debt burden to build and maintain it.

The plan includes **75% additional future capacity** specifically for new development — not existing needs. And under the new zoning, the largest undeveloped parcels can now build across half their acreage. With sewer + zoning, those parcels become instant high-value development sites.

We have seen this pattern across the country:

A town takes on debt. Developers reap windfall profits. Small-town character evaporates.

Residents are left paying the bill for decades.

This is how it starts.

4. The New Village Hall: The Most Recent — Clearest — Warning Sign of All

To push through controversial projects, the Town invoked the **Monroe Balancing Test**, a 1980 court case created to resolve disputes between different levels of government — not a tool for a town board to exempt its own projects from its own zoning.

The Town bought the former Jehovah’s Witness church on Route 22 — a building that is not zoned for municipal use. Instead of acknowledging that fact, the Town exempted itself using Monroe.

Worse, the Town told the public it would cost **\$150,000** to convert the building into a fully compliant Town Hall. The parking lot alone needs more than **\$50,000** in repairs. This building we all own has sat vacant for years. We’ve already spent **\$100,000** in mold remediation. It’s impossible to turn this empty, deserted shell into modern municipal offices for less than **\$1 million**.

Why do we own it? Why has it sat vacant for years on our dime?

Is this how these people handle their **personal** real estate investments?

5. We Can Still Stop This — But Not If We Stay Silent

Residents deserve transparency, lawful process, and an honest accounting of who benefits from decisions that will define Millerton’s future. The zoning overhaul demands real scrutiny — not a holiday-week drop and a misleading notice.

The holidays are stressful enough. We should not be asked to swallow a 181-page big-box corridor in the middle of them.

Now is the moment to protect Millerton — before someone else decides what it becomes.

We need affordable housing, economic growth, and development — but only when our community’s voices have standing in how these decisions get made. We are the taxpayers. We are the voice. We have the most to lose and the most to gain. Secret planning does not equal “intelligent planning” — quite the opposite.

Democracy — the process of listening to the people — is messy and slow. And that’s why developers are always lurking in the shadows with exactly what was handed to us right before the most stressful time of the year.

Join Us

To get involved, contact us: SaveMillerton@gmail.com

To learn more, visit: SaveMillerton.org

We are your neighbors. We love this town. And we refuse to let its future be written behind our backs.



The Lakeville Journal ▪ The Millerton News

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Local Matters

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*Here’s what your neighbors are saying about why they value
The Lakeville Journal & The Millerton News*

“I have had a home in Lakeville for over 50 years and I believe *The Lakeville Journal* is a public good that benefits everyone. It helps neighbors look out for each other, surfaces solutions, and keeps people connected. Everyone benefits from having a hometown newspaper.”
EVAN FRIEDMAN, LAKEVILLE

“We have limited impact on worldwide chaos – but we CAN make a difference locally. *The Millerton News* tells me what’s relevant HERE so I can do my part.”
KATHY CHOW, MILLERTON

“*The Lakeville Journal* is the voice of our towns and our region. It provides news that we would otherwise miss. It is the connective tissue of our extended community, and worthy of our continued support.”
PETER HALLE, FALLS VILLAGE

“*The Lakeville Journal* is an essential part of a functional community.”
STEVE DUTTON, FALLS VILLAGE

“I look forward to Thursdays and the new edition of *The Lakeville Journal* every week! I enjoy reading about our towns, what’s happening at our local schools, real estate transactions and especially the opinion pages. The police blotter is also informative. I look forward to solving the word of the week puzzle and try my hand at the crossword. I am both entertained and informed each week. The Lakeville Journal is a treasure for me and our community.”
REGINA HURLBURT, CORNWALL

“Simply put, *The Millerton News* is one of the most important public services we have. It does more than report the news, it weaves the fabric of our community, It tells our stories, celebrates our successes, and ensures everyone knows what’s happening right here at home. When trusted information is accessible to everyone, our community is stronger.”
JENN NAJDEK, MILLERTON

“I read *The Millerton News* to stay connected to our corner of the world. It’s my way of supporting the community I love and staying up to date on local happenings.”
NICHOLE REYES, MILLERTON

“*The Millerton News* is an essential part of my weekly routine. Its in-depth local coverage helps keep the fabric of our community strong.”
RUTH HARLOW, MILLERTON

“At its core, *The Lakeville Journal* is a public good that benefits everyone. It keeps people connected, helps neighbors look out for one another, and highlights local solutions.”
LIBBY PANZER, SALISBURY

“I feel my sense of community expanding when I read *The Millerton News*. The letters to the editor, the stories from our neighboring towns – Amenia and Millbrook – keep me connected to our region. We are all dealing with similar issues...albeit in different ways. There is nothing else like our paper and I’m so grateful to have it.”
JENNIFER DOWLEY, NORTH EAST

“*The Lakeville Journal* strengthens our community. A strong local news source brings people together, reduces polarization, and even boosts bond ratings. We’re loyal readers and big fans!”
ELIZABETH BARTLE & DAVID BOGHOSSIAN, NORFOLK

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KRATOM

Continued from Page A1

Smoker’s Choice smoke shop in North Canaan’s Stop & Shop plaza. “It will only help if you use it with caution.”

A few towns away, Omar Nasser, owner of The Smoking Ape Smoke Shop on South Main Street in Torrington, described the range of products lining his shelves.

“Each strain has a different effect,” Nasser said. “The herbal powder form of kratom is addictive, but not as addictive as the stronger forms.” He said he recommends the lowest dosage based on customers’ needs. “It helps a lot of people in pain, although you do get attached to it — but not as much as some pain medications.”

Nasser said trends are emerging among his customers. “A lot of people use it to get out of withdrawal as well,” he said, noting that most of his buyers are between ages 30 and 50.

“There is always a reason for them to take it. From a human perspective, I try to talk people out of it if they don’t need it.” He added that some buyers are managing serious illnesses. “I have a lot of cancer patients, and it makes them feel better.”

As he spoke, a customer walked into the shop and headed straight to the kratom display area. Within minutes, she purchased a colorful packet of Jubi kratom tablets at \$27.99 and a 300 mg packet of Pseudo for \$44.99. Mitragynine pseudoindoxyl, or Pseudo, is a powerful compound derived from the natural alkaloids found in kratom.

While the customer declined to provide her name, she explained that the kratom helps with back pain from an automobile accident, and being two years sober, she preferred a more natural option in pain management.

Clinicians say those stronger, concentrated forms are exactly what concerns them.

“The problem isn’t just the plant — it’s the way modern products are manufactured and marketed,” according to Mountainside’s Wu.

Treatment centers sounding the alarm

At High Watch Recovery Center in Kent, Dr. Andrew Rizzo, who specializes in addiction medicine, said



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

An assortment of colorful kratom products line the shelves at The Smoking Ape Smoke Shop in Torrington.

kratom misuse has become increasingly common among patients seeking treatment.

“I’ve seen a steady increase in the number of patients who come to High Watch for kratom abuse,” Rizzo said.

He said many people begin using kratom believing it will ease their transition off opioids.

“People trying to get off opioids often turn to kratom,” he said. “But 7-OH is much more addictive, and withdrawal is pretty severe — similar to opioid withdrawal.”

The lack of regulation, he added, presents its own risk.

“How do they know what they are actually taking is really in the product? It could be something higher than the labeled doses,” Rizzo said. “There are people who think they are taking a safe alternative, when it’s taking them down the path of addiction.”

The McCall Behavioral Health Network in Torrington reports similar trends.

Kyle Fitzmaurice, McCall’s harm reduction coordinator, said more people are now seeking help specifically for kratom-related concerns.

“We are seeing an increase in folks coming in asking for support,” he said. “Often people assume natural kratom is safe, but ‘safe’ is always a questionable word,” he said noting that kratom is a plant. “But recently, there has been a shift toward more synthetic versions, like 7-OH and Pseudo. They’re not kratom.”

Some products are mislabeled, he said, which puts users at greater risk.

“What we’re learning is that some places are marketing them as kratom, and that is what causes the risk,” Fitzmaurice said. He encouraged consumers to read product

packaging carefully. “People should be looking for accreditation by the American Kratom Association.”

Where Connecticut stands now

Earlier this year, the state enacted a law directing the Department of Consumer Protection to determine kratom’s place on the controlled-substance schedule. The DCP has since put for-

ward a proposed rule, classifying Mitragyna speciosa and its extracts as a Schedule I drug, alongside heroin and LSD. Possession or sale would be illegal except for research. Retailers — including many small shops, gas stations and convenience stores across the Northwest Corner — would have to pull products immediately should it go into effect.

DCP is expected to make a final decision in the coming months.

State health officials warn that kratom can cause dizziness, confusion, drowsiness, hallucinations, depression, seizures and breathing difficulties, especially when combined with other drugs.

Wu said Mountainside’s mission is not to stigmatize, but rather to educate and support. “People deserve accurate information, safe treatment and a path forward.”

WAKE SURFING

Continued from Page A1

lake users countered that any threat to the lake’s fragile health was enough to support the prohibition. During public hearings and meetings leading up to the vote, several speakers pointed to the lake’s well-documented period of poor water quality in the 1970s and 1980s, when it was largely unusable.

Others raised concerns about safety, saying large wakes have knocked kayakers off balance or shaken docks when wake-surfing boats pass. These reports, however, are anecdotal, and no formal safety study specific to Lake Waramaug has been conducted.

Lake Waramaug Friends and other opponents maintain that the concerns are overstated and that, without concrete water-quality data, there is no evidence to support an ecologically based ban.

The group also says it did not receive a public hearing after submitting its own set of proposed regulations to DEEP in June, accompanied by 80 signatures. It argues that the agency’s refusal violated state statute, rendering DEEP’s later approval of the ban invalid.

The group says that the approval sets a “troubling precedent: allowing municipalities to prohibit safe, legal activities without evidence of harm, while ignoring affected constituents and denying them meaningful participation in the decision-making process.”

The ban is scheduled to take effect in February, when DEEP publishes its updated Boater Safety Guide. DEEP has also commissioned its own study of wake-surfing impacts on Connecticut lakes, with findings expected that same month.

JUBILEE

Continued from Page A1

second annual Jubilee.

Addressing more than 100 attendees, Brian Ross, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, underscored why Williams was chosen. “Bunny has always believed, as we do at our newspapers, that community matters, and that local matters,” he said.

Williams has spent decades bolstering local organizations. She helped launch Trade Secrets 25 years ago, turning it into a major fundraiser for Project Sage, the region’s domestic violence agency. She has hosted events for local libraries, supported the Falls Village Daycare Center and Music Mountain, and founded The Great County Mutt Show to benefit The Little Guild.

Board Chair Dan Dwyer urged attendees to follow Williams’ example. “Get informed, stay informed and get involved in your community to make it a little better than it was — that’s what Bunny has done,” he said.

In her tribute, Betsy Smith — a close friend of Williams and chair of the Jubilee — called the honoree honest, energetic and warm. “She’s the essence of being civic minded,” Smith said. “I could not be prouder to be in her orbit of friendship, warmth, commitment, and making our community a better place.”

Ross presented Williams with the award, which she immediately dedicated back to the community.

“What I learned is that the best part of this community — as beautiful as it is — is the people. I may have an idea, but it’s just an idea,” Williams said. “It is the effort and the



PHOTOS BY ALY MORRISSEY

Donors to LJMN Media gathered for cocktails and hor d’ouvres Saturday, Nov. 23, to honor Bunny Williams of Salisbury with the Estabrook Community Leadership Award for her contributions to nonprofit and community organizations in the Northwest Corner. Williams founded Trade Secrets, the annual fundraiser that supports women who have been victims of physical and sexual abuse.



Michael Trapp, left, talks with Hillary Cooper. Right, James Clark, publisher of the Lakeville Journal and Millerton News, praises Bunny Williams and her contribution to the Northwest Corner community in an address celebrating local journalism.

commitment and the generosity of people who step up to the plate to make these events happen and I’ve never seen anything like it.”

Publisher James Clark congratulated Williams before highlighting the vital role of local journalism. “When you read The Lakeville Journal and The Mil-

lerton News, you become more informed about what’s happening in your communities — and more connected

to your community,” he said, adding his thanks to the attendees whose support helps the newspapers thrive.

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Dr. Dean Spears & Dr. Michael Geruso

Co-authors Dr. Dean Spears and Dr. Michael Geruso will speak about their recent book *After the Spike: Population, Progress, and the Case for People*. Both Spears and Geruso are economists, demographers, and associate professors at the University of Texas at Austin.

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle



“Once Upon a Time in America” features ten portraits by artist Katro Storm.

ART: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Students curate Katro Storm portraits at HVRHS

The Kearcher-Mon-sell Gallery at Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village is once again host to a wonderful student-curated exhibition. “Once Upon a Time in America,” ten portraits by New Haven artist Katro Storm, opened on Nov. 20 and will run through the end of the year.

“This is our first show of the year,” said senior student Alex Wilbur, the current head intern who oversees the student-run gallery. “I inherited the position last year from Elinor Wolgemuth. It’s been really amazing to take charge and see this through.”

Part of what became a capstone project for Wolgemuth, she left behind a comprehensive guide to help future student interns manage the gallery effectively. “Everything from who we should contact, the steps to take for everything, our donors,” Wilbur said. “It’s really extensive and it’s been a huge help.”

Art teacher Lilly Rand Barnett first met Storm a few years ago through his ICEHOUSE Project Space



Artist Katro Storm

exhibition in Sharon, “Will It Grow in Sharon?” in which he planted cotton and tobacco as part of an exploration of ancestral heritage.

“And the plants did grow,” said Barnett. She asked Storm if her students could use them, and the resulting work became a project for that year’s Troutbeck Symposium, the annual student-led event in Amenia that uncovers little-known or under-told histories of marginalized communities, particularly BIPOC histories.

Last spring, Rand emailed to ask if Storm would consider a solo show at HVRHS. He agreed.

And just a few weeks ago, he arrived — paints, brushes and canvases in tow.

“When Katro came to start hanging everything, he took up a mini art residency in Ms. Rand’s room,” Wilbur said. “All her students were able to see his process and talk to him. It was great working with him.”

Perhaps more unexpected was his openness. “He really trusted us as curators and visionaries,” Wilbur said. “He said, ‘Do with it what you will.’”

Storm’s artistic training began at New Haven’s Educational Center for the Arts. His talent earned him a full scholarship to the Arts Institute

of Boston, then Boston’s Museum School, where he painted seven oversized portraits of influential Black figures — in seven days — for his final project. Those works became the backbone of his early exhibitions, including at Howard University’s National Council for the Arts.

Storm has created several community murals like the 2009 READ Mural featuring local heroes, and several literacy and wellness murals at the Stetson Branch Library in New Haven. Today, he teaches and works, he said, “wherever I set up shop. Sometimes I go outside. Sometimes I’m on top of roofs. Wherever it is, I get the job done.”

His deep ties to education made a high school gallery an especially meaningful stop. “No one really knew who these people were except

Continued on B3



PHOTO BY MARJORIE BORREDA

Le Petit Ranch offers animal-assisted therapy and learning programs for children and seniors in Sheffield.

BUSINESS: SALLY HAVER

Mini horses, big impact: animal learning center opens in Sheffield

Le Petit Ranch, a nonprofit offering animal-assisted therapy and learning programs, opened in April at 147 Bears Den Road in Sheffield. Founded by Marjorie Borreda, the center provides programs for children, families and seniors using miniature horses, rescued greyhounds, guinea pigs and chickens.

Borreda, who moved to Sheffield with her husband, Mitch Moulton, and their two children to be closer to his family, has transformed her longtime love of animals into her

career. She completed certifications in animal-assisted therapy and coaching in 2023, along with coursework in psychiatry, psychology, literacy and veterinary skills.

Le Petit Ranch operates out of two small structures next to the family’s home: a one-room schoolhouse for animal-assisted learning sessions and a compact stable for the three miniature horses, Mini Mac, Rocket and Miso. Other partner animals include two rescued Spanish greyhounds, Yayi and Ronya; four

Continued on next page

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Dec. 27, 28

...Le Petit Ranch

Continued from previous page



PHOTOS BY MARJORIE BORREDA

Child working with a miniature horse at Le Petit Ranch

guinea pigs and a flock of chickens.

Borreda offers programs at the Scoville Library in Salisbury, at Salisbury Central School and surrounding towns to support those who benefit from non-traditional learning environments.

“Animal-assisted education partners with animals to support learning in math, reading, writing, language and physical education,” she said. One activity, equimotricité, has children lead miniature horses through obstacle courses to build autonomy, confidence and motor skills.

She also brings her greyhounds into schools for a “min vet clinic,” a workshop that turns lessons on dog biology and measuring skills into hands-on, movement-based learning. A separate dog-bite prevention workshop teaches children how to read canine body language and respond calmly.

Parents and teachers report strong results. More than 90% of parents

observed greater empathy, reduced anxiety, increased self-confidence and improved communication and cooperation in their children, and every parent said animal-assisted education made school more enjoyable — with many calling it “the highlight of their week.”

Le Petit Ranch also serves seniors, including nursing home residents experiencing depression, social withdrawal or reduced physical activity. Weekly small-group sessions with animals can stimulate cognitive function and improve motor skills, balance and mobility.

Families can visit Le Petit Ranch for animal-assisted afterschool sessions, French immersion or family walks. She also offers programs for schools, libraries, community centers, churches, senior centers and nursing homes.

For more information, email info@lepetitranch.com, visit lepetitranch.com, follow @le.petit.ranch on Instagram or call 413-200-8081.



Weekly small-group sessions with seniors at Le Petit Ranch stimulates cognitive function and improves motor skills.

BUSINESS: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Iconic candy shop gets new name, new owner — and a poodle-inspired rebrand

Robin’s Candy, the iconic Main Street candy shop in Great Barrington, has a new name, a refreshed look and a new owner. Now rebranded as Coco’s Candy, the beloved destination continues to offer its signature mix of nostalgic favorites and modern sweets.

The new owner, Elise Contarsy, who purchased the store from founder Robin Helfand in June, said stepping into ownership felt natural after being a customer for more than 15 years. “I was excited about the shopping experience she had built and the possibilities for the shop going forward,” she said.

Coco’s Candy is named for Contarsy’s poodle, Uncle Coconut, affectionately called Coco. “He’s the uncle of Sammy and George, our friend’s poodles,” said Contarsy. “We call him Coco for short.”

While the shop has been updated with a fresh look and an evolving assortment of candy, Contarsy said the heart of the experience remains the same. Coco’s will continue its mix of nostalgic treats and contemporary confections, along with the local chocolates and imported licorice that have long made the shop a destination. “Would you be surprised if I said licorice is my favorite candy?” she added.

Holiday shoppers will find plenty to explore this season, from treats offered for a limited-time only and fun-size clas-



PHOTO BY ELISE CONTARSY

By any other name, it’s still as sweet. Robin’s Candy in Great Barrington re-branded as Coco’s.

sics to stocking stuffers available only during the holidays. The store will also be open seven days a week from Nov. 20 through Dec. 24 for all your sweet tooth needs.

“Our goal is to continue being a joyful part of the community,” Contarsy said. “Whether it’s your first visit or you’re coming in to check out the new look, we’re excited to welcome you to Coco’s Candy.”

Coco’s Candy is located at 288 Main St. in Great Barrington. Visit www.cocoscandy.co.

Address your calendar entry to calendar@lakevillejournal.com by Friday at noon.

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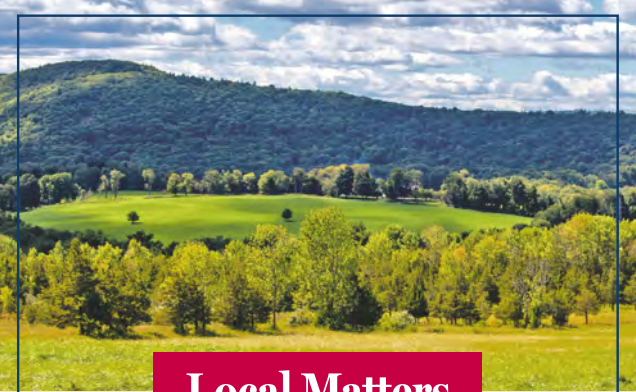
WICKED FOR GOOD	November 30 @ 1PM December 4 @ 7PM
ZOOTOPIA 2	NT Live THE FIFTH STEP
RENTAL FAMILY	December 3 @ 7PM December 7 @ 1PM
MISTRESS DISPELLER	Exhibition on Screen CARAVAGGIO

FREE FAMILY MOVIE: Friday Nov. 28 @ 10:00 AM
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS
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PHOTO PROVIDED

The Joint Chiefs will perform at The Center on Main in Falls Village on Nov. 29

MUSIC: GRAHAM CORRIGAN

The Joint Chiefs: three decades of folk, harmony and community

Local folk heroes the Joint Chiefs will visit the Center on Main in Falls Village on Saturday, Nov. 29, for a special concert. The band has been a linchpin of the Berkshire music scene for more than three decades, and founding member Eliot Osborn feels a special kinship with next week's venue. "It's a community space, and the Joint Chiefs are really a community band."

It all started in north-west Connecticut. The group began playing

together regularly in the mid-1990s and steadily amassed a devoted following in the area's folk and country music circles. With a handful of studio and live albums at their disposal, this week's audience can expect a little of everything. "People have been listening to us for so long now that we're part of their nostalgia," said Louise Lindenmeyr, the band's mandolinist. "It's almost like we're part of their scrapbook — everybody's just chiming right in."

Lindenmeyr also plays

the button-box accordion and sings. But she's not the only one. Rich, complex harmonies have always been one of the Joint Chiefs' calling cards, but lead vocals are a shared responsibility. Their instruments are always changing hands. "Music is always evolving in a healthy environment," said Osborn. "It has to change and grow. What has stayed the same is that nobody's really in charge. That's why we chose the name the Joint Chiefs. There isn't one person who dictates

the musical direction."

Guitarist George Potts and percussionist Diana Harold round out the group. The Center on Main show promises songs old and new, a welcoming holiday spirit and some of the region's best local musicians.

The Center on Main is at 103 Main St., Falls Village. Admission is \$15 at the door and doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Graham Corrigan is a writer and musician from Philadelphia currently living in Lakeville.

...Katro Storm

Continued from previous page

maybe John Lennon," Storm said of the portraits in the show. "It's really important for them to know James Baldwin and Shirley Chisholm. And now they do."

The exhibition includes a wide list of subjects: James Baldwin, Shirley Chisholm, Redd Foxx, Jasper Johns, Marilyn Manson, William F. Buckley, Harold Hunter, John Lennon, as well as two deeply personal works — a portrait of Tracy Sherrod ("She's a friend of mine... She had an interesting hairdo") and a tribute to his late friend Nes Rivera. "Most of the time I choose my subjects because there are things I want to see," Storm said.

Storm's paintings, which he describes as "full frontal figuratism," rely on drips, tonal shifts, and what feels like emerging depth. His process moves quickly. "It depends on how fast it needs to get done," he said. "Sometimes I like to take the long way up the mountain. Instead of doing an outline, I just start coloring, blocking things off with light and

dark until it starts to take shape."

He's currently in a black-and-white phase. "Right now, I'm inspired by black and white, the way I can really get contrast and depth."

Work happens on multiple canvases at once. "Sometimes I'll have five paintings going on at one time because I go through different moods, and then there's the way the light hits," he said. "It's kind of like cooking. You've got a couple things going at once, a couple things cooking, and you just try to reach that deadline."

For Wilbur, who has studied studio arts "ever since I was really young" and recently applied early decision to Vassar, the experience has been transformative. For Storm — an artist who built an early career painting seven portraits in seven days and has turned New York's subway corridors into a makeshift museum — it has been another chance to merge artmaking with education, and to pass a torch to a new generation of curators.

ADVERTISE IN COMPASS

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PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Troutbeck hosts mindfulness talk with Dan Harris

Sascha Lewis (right), Troutbeck's director of culture and commerce, hosted a conversation with journalist and meditation advocate Dan Harris during a Luminary Series event at Troutbeck in Amenia on Sunday, Nov. 23. Harris, author of the No. 1 New York Times bestseller "10% Happier" and host of the podcast of the same name, led a brief guided meditation before jumping into his intimate chat with Lewis and taking audience questions.

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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

NOVEMBER 28

6th annual Old Fashioned Christmas Exhibit

The Great Barrington Historical Society 817 South Main St., Great Barrington, Mass.

2 to 6 p.m.

This six-room exhibit traces the history of Christmas from European and Colonial traditions through the rise of Saint Nicholas and the holiday's Civil War-era evolution. Visitors move through the Victorian era, the 1920s, the Depression, World War II and the 1950s, ending in a modern gallery with a large train and Christmas village. A gift area offers unique items. Through Jan. 4. Free admission; group tours available by emailing info@gbhistory.org.

Holiday Season Kick-off

The Souterrain Gallery of The Wish House, 413 Sharon Goshen Tpke., West Cornwall, Conn.

The Souterrain Gallery of The Wish House invites the community to Moon Zappa & Friends, a multi-faceted exhibit, book signing, tea and opening reception party on Friday, Nov. 28, from 4 to 6 p.m. to kick off the holiday season in style.

Tree Lighting in Kent

Kent Town Hall, 41 Kent Green Blvd., Kent, Conn.

Kick off the holiday season Friday, Nov. 28, at 4 p.m. with a community gathering outside Town Hall. There will be caroling around the tree, hot cocoa, cookies and a visit from Santa.

NOVEMBER 29

Barnspace Holiday Market

Race Brook Lodge, 864 South Undermountain Road, Sheffield, Mass.

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Barnspace Holiday Market is a great opportunity to discover unique options for your holiday gifting, and enjoy live music, delicious culinary offerings, and creative community spirit at Race Brook Lodge.

The Joint Chiefs Concert

The Center on Main, 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. thecenteronmain.org

6:30 p.m.

Celebrate Thanksgiving weekend with live music by local residents and regionally acclaimed musicians, The Joint Chiefs!

Admission is \$15 at the door.

Willow Wreath-Making

BES, 50 Main St., Millerton, N.Y.

Nov. 29 at 10 a.m. and Nov. 30 at 4 p.m.

Start with a base of fresh local willow and embellish with an array of locally-sourced preserved flora, evergreen sprigs and seasonal

details. No experience necessary, for all ages. One wreath included with each reserved spot, with additional wreaths available for purchase at the workshop.

Please note! Wreath-making will be a weekend-long event! Registering reserves your wreath and allows you to use the workshop and materials at any time during special holiday opening hours: 10-5 on Saturday or 10-4 on Sunday. Coffee and tea served.

NOVEMBER 30

Cottage Courses: Papier Mâché Ornaments

Troutbeck, 515 Leedsville Road, Amenia, Conn.

Nov. 30, 1 to 4:30 p.m.

\$95 per person

Learn the art of papier mâché and create hand-painted ornaments from simple materials. Open to all; separate tickets required for each participant. troutbeck.com/culture/cottage-courses-paper-mache-ornaments-11-30-2025/

DECEMBER 3

Senior Dinner at the White Hart

White Hart Inn, 15 Under Mountain Road, Salisbury, Conn.

Sharon Hospital will be hosting a senior dinner on Wednesday, Dec. 3, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the White Hart. This event is an extension of the hospital's Senior Meals Program, which

offers discounted meals for seniors at the hospital. RSVP to Griffin Cooper at griffin.cooper@nuvancehealth.org or call (475)296-5111.

Knit Last-Minute Holiday Gifts with Bruce Weinstein

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

Knit up cozy, fast, easy gifts for loved ones in time for the holidays! You'll learn a new stitch or pattern with expert Bruce Weinstein at each session. Workshops meet on Wednesdays, Dec. 3, 10, and 17, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Recommended for people with some knitting experience. Register at scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/15688597.

DECEMBER 5

Hammertown's First Annual Warehouse Sale

14 Clayton Road, Canaan, Conn.

Dec. 5 & 6

Up to 75% off furniture, rugs, lighting, antiques, decor and more. Delivery available. Warehouse open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fri & Sat.

Holiday Market, hosted by Noble Horizons Auxiliary

Community Room at Noble Horizons, 17 Cobble Road, Salisbury, Conn.

Dec. 5 & 6

Noble Horizons Auxiliary's hugely popular Holiday Market,

a 2-day festive event and fundraiser, returns on Friday, Dec. 5 and Saturday, Dec. 6 in the Community Room at Noble Horizons, 17 Cobble Road, Salisbury CT. 06068 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Sale items will include baked goods, hand-made knits, jewelry, jams and jellies, hand-made decorations, greenery and centerpieces, raffle baskets, holiday décor, wall art, and more.

Jump The Moon: Moviehouse Winter Fundraiser 2025

The Colonial Theatre, 27 Railroad St., North Canaan, Conn.

Cocktails, music, food, and mingling followed by a curated selection of avant-garde short films with live-scored music by Brian Kantor, Wes Buckley, and Miles Lally. Afterparty with DJ and dancing. Dress to impress in Art Deco style. Proceeds support The Moviehouse's films and cultural programs in Millerton. Tickets: secure.qgiv.com/for/themoviehouse/event/972070/package/3851819

DECEMBER 6

Holiday Sale and Pop-up Market

325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, Conn.

Stop by Sharon Audubon on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to browse the Nature Store and additional items

from local merchants and artisans, one day only! Sip mulled cider, nibble a treat, help decorate our tree, go home with found treasures and unique gifts.

Holiday Trivia Night

Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.

Get ready to sleigh the season at Holiday Trivia Night at Stissing Center! Hosted by the always-entertaining Alec Sisco, this festive evening will test your knowledge of holiday pop culture - from classic TV specials and iconic movies to quirky holiday traditions. Bring your friends, your holiday spirit, and maybe a little eggnog-fueled brainpower for a fun, cozy night of friendly competition and seasonal cheer. Perfect for trivia buffs and holiday lovers alike! Space is limited, so get your tickets early. Tickets: ci.ovationtix.com/36784/production/1245583?performanceId=11665407

12x12 Benefit Art Sale

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

Dec. 6, 5 to 7 p.m.

The Hunt Library hosts its annual 12x12 benefit sale (on view through Jan. 9) featuring more than 60 artists. All works are 12x12 inches and \$150 each. Purchased pieces may be taken home at the reception; remaining works stay on view through Jan. 9.

Last week's WotW

V	O	I	C	E
V	I	N	Y	L
V	I	R	U	S
V	I	S	T	A
V	I	S	I	T

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.

- Yummy, delicious food
- Send in a résumé
- Prepared, good to go
- Holiday mayhem
- Liquid gold on Thanksgiving

WORD OF THE WEEK ©THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- Popular wine — Spumante
- Greatly impressed
- ___ and that
- Uttered with passion
- Boats
- Veteran actor Harris
- Casserole with game
- Reprehensible acts
- They precede C
- Says under one's breath
- Taxis
- It transfers genetic info
- NFL great Randy
- Where college students sleep
- Major European river
- Taco condiment
- frutti
- Polish city
- Astronomy unit
- Khoikhoi peoples
- Bears QB Williams
- Scrambled, fried, boiled
- Price indicators
- One-time world power
- When you hope to get somewhere
- Farm building
- Choose carefully
- Magnum was one
- One who combines
- Nursemaids
- Partner to Pa
- Notable river
- Officially honors
- Colorless compound
- A fancy chair
- Email function
- Title for a man
- Equally
- Scarlett's home
- One-time tech titan
- Subway dwellers
- One-tenth of a liter
- Central European river
- Distress signal
- Expression of sympathy
- The bill in a restaurant
- Football equipment
- Dance music
- Russian river
- Cosmetics giant Mary
- Gym class
- Automobiles
- Roman honorific
- Losses in sports
- Skin tone in summer
- Distant planet
- Critical humor
- Illegally obtained

CLUES DOWN

- The central area in a building
- Religion of Japan
- Leggings
- Officially distributes
- Arabian Sea seaport
- Spanish doctors
- It cools your house
- Currency of Poland
- Slowly moves into
- Days (Spanish)
- Unit of volume
- Emit
- With two replaceable hydrogens

1	2	3	4					5	6	7	8	9	10				
11								12						13	14	15	
16								17				18					
19				20	21			22	23					24			
25							26						27				
28							29						30				
				31	32						33						
34	35	36	37								38						
39							40	41	42								
43							44						45	46	47	48	
49							50					51	52				
53					54							55					
56			57						58					59			
60							61	62						63			
					64								65				

- Go back over
- Home appliance brand
- Unit of radioactivity
- Home of the Flyers
- Short official note
- Emit coherent radiation
- Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
- Most common noble gas (abbr.)
- Toward

November 20 Solution

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

November 20 Solution

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



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Sports



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

Housy wraps up fall ball

Club basketball at the Northstar Sportsplex Fall League in Canton concluded for The Housy Seven on Sunday, Nov. 16. On the team were Housatonic Valley Regional High School players Owen Riemer (above), Anthony Labbadia, Anthony Foley, Simon Markow (below), Henry Berry, Ryan Segalla and Jaxon Visockis. Also on the team were Northwestern Regional High School players Ty Devita and Patrick Rouleau. Coach Dino Labbadia praised the effort of his team and framed the experience as valuable preparation for the upcoming varsity season.



Bridgeport Prep basketball wins 102-90 scorcher in South Kent

By Lans Christensen

KENT — The South Kent School Cardinals hosted Bridgeport Prep Tuesday, Nov. 18 for a prep league basketball game.

These two premiere development programs compete in the New England Prep School Athletic Conference, as well as other leagues. South Kent became NEPSAC AAA champions in 2023.

The showdown in Kent promised an exciting game with top-tier talent on the court.

Fast-paced action began within the first minutes. Both teams played aggressive, full court defense.

The evenly matched teams kept the scoring difference to within two baskets for most of the first half, which ended with 45-42 in Cardinals' favor.

The second half began much the same until Bridgeport took the lead for the first time 56-55 with 15 minutes left. Bridgeport maintained and increased the lead from that point forward.

As the deficit grew to double digits with only one-minute left, Bridgeport's control of game became evident.

Bridgeport guard Amyre Gray was a true spark plug for the team, both on offense and defense.

Final score was 102-90. Impressive play was shown throughout the game by both teams.



PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Above, Amyre Gray sets up the offense for Bridgeport Prep. Bottom left, Kareem Hopkins scores through contact for South Kent. Right, Bryce Bennett defends.



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