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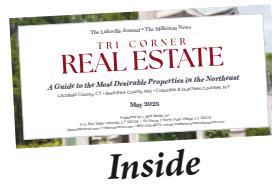
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# The Lakeville Journal

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026 \$3.00

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



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Christopher Race produced this 33-inch, 30-ounce torpedo-style baseball bat as part of his senior Capstone project at Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

## Senior projects put craft and curiosity on display at Housy

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Seniors at Housatonic Valley Regional High School showcased a wide range of hands-on skills and career interests as they presented their Capstone projects on Thursday, Jan. 15.

Levi Elliott of Millerton restored a 1993 Dodge 350D two-wheel-drive dually truck, working under the guidance of his mentor and advisor, Roger Ellwood of Sharon, whom Elliott described as being "like a grandpa."

The truck had been stored in a barn in Tennessee, meaning struc-

tural rust was not an issue, though there was some surface rust and a few dents. Elliott replaced the five-speed manual transmission and the truck bed and described sandblasting as "the dirtiest job" of the entire process.

The electrical system, he said, "was a mess," requiring him to start from scratch with help from a friend. Elliott estimated he has invested about \$6,000 in the restoration, noting that comparable trucks can sell for as much as \$16,000. He plans to register and

See HVRHS, Page A8

## Salisbury prepares for launch of 100th Jumpfest

By Mia Barnes

SALISBURY — Salisbury's long-standing tradition of ski jumping is reaching new heights this year with the 100th annual Jumpfest, scheduled for Feb. 6-8 at Satre Hill.

The weekend-long celebration begins with a community night on Friday, Feb. 6, continues with youth ski jumping competitions and the Salisbury Invitational on Saturday, and culminates Sunday with the Eastern U.S. Ski Jumping Championships.

While spectators look skyward to watch the high-flying athletes, Jumpfest will also invite the community to look back on Salisbury's deep-rooted ski jumping history.

Ski jumping originated in Norway in the 19th century and is a tradition familiar to most Nordic children. That was the case for the Satre brothers — John, Magnus, Ottar and Olaf — who grew up competing in ski jumping and cross-country skiing.

When John Satre moved to Salisbury in 1923 to work as a chauffeur, he brought the tradition with him. The rolling hills and heavy winters of the Northwest Corner resembled those of Norway, allowing John to seamlessly integrate his passion into his new community.

Within a year, his brothers followed him to Salisbury.

In 1926, John Satre captivated roughly 200 spectators by skiing off a snow-covered barn roof.



PHOTO PROVIDED  
The Satre brothers, of Norway, brought ski jumping to Salisbury in the 1920s. Clockwise starting at lower left, John, Olaf, Ottar and Magnus Satre pose alongside their large collection of trophies earned for accomplishments as ski jumpers.

The brothers soon formed the Salisbury Outing Club — now known as the Salisbury Winter Sports Association (SWSA) — and began construction of a permanent ski jump in the same location it sits today: Satre Hill.

By 1933, the Satre brothers had won numerous championships and helped popularize the sport across

the United States. Salisbury hosted the U.S. Olympic Trials in 1932, and the following year hosted the National Championships.

See JUMPFEST, Page A8

## Kent Memorial Library closes for renovation

By Ruth Epstein

KENT — It was billed as a "Goodbye Party to the Kent Memorial Library as We Know It."

On Saturday, Jan. 17, as snow fell steadily, hardy members of the community came out to take a final look at the present-day facility that is now closed for a major renovation project.

While the weather deterred many from coming out for the festivities, those who did were given a de-

See LIBRARY, Page A8



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN  
Canon Petero Sabune addresses the congregation at St. John's Episcopal Church Sunday, Jan. 18.

can do that."

In his sermon, Sabune said that many accounts of King's life and influence often "forget about his faith and convictions."

"He was a baptized disciple of Jesus Christ," Sabune said.

After the service, Sabune was asked about ongoing protests and controversy in Minneapolis. He noted that King's philosophy of nonviolent resistance was shaped by Mahatma Gandhi, who in turn drew inspiration from the writings

of Henry David Thoreau.

Sabune said civil rights workers and protesters in the 1950s and 1960s underwent formal training in nonviolence. "They taught people how to get hit and not respond, what [civil rights figure and congressman] John Lewis called 'good trouble,'" he said.

Reflecting on more recent events, Sabune said that when considering the circumstances that led to the death of Renee Good at the hands of Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent Jonathan Ross, "I feel the pain, not just for Renee, but for Officer Ross."

Music also played a prominent role in the service. The hymns were drawn from "Lift Every Voice and Sing II: An African-American Hymnal." Among them was "Precious Lord," which King requested be sung the night before his death.

See MLK, Page A8

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## Local Matters

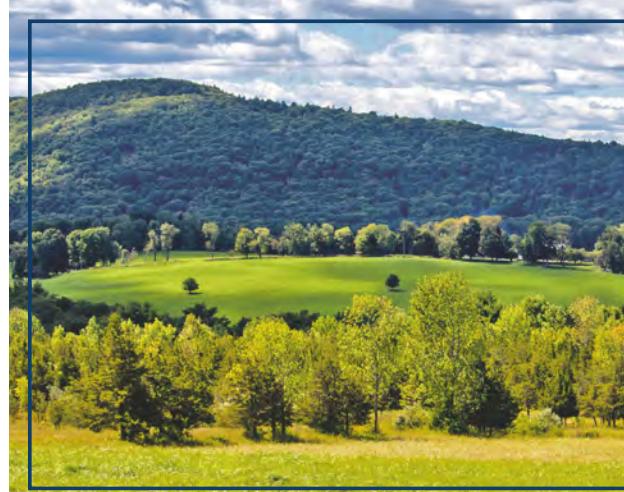
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## Our Towns

## In The Journal this week

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## Online This Week

## High Watch hearing extended again in Kent

The Kent addiction recovery center seeking to amend its special permit will continue a public hearing with the Planning and Zoning Commission Feb. 12.

More at [lakevillejournal.com](http://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.

## Larceny arrest

On the evening of Jan. 11, North Canaan Resident Trooper Spencer Bronson was dispatched to Troop B to process Anthony Damis, 34, of Torrington, who had a warrant out for his arrest regarding an incident at Xtra Mart on Route 44 dated Dec. 3, 2025. Trooper Bronson spoke on the phone with Damis, who turned himself in at Troop B later in the evening and was processed for third degree larceny. He was released on a \$1,000 non-surety bond and was scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court on Jan. 22.

## Car rolls after icy skid

On the morning of Jan. 13, Ryne Stankiewicz, 40, of Kent, was traveling west on Route 4 in Cornwall when his Honda Civic slid out on the

snowy roadway. The vehicle struck a snow embankment on the shoulder and flipped onto its passenger side where it came to a stop. Stankiewicz was reported to have suffered possible injuries, and the vehicle was disabled by the incident. Stankiewicz was issued a written warning for failure to maintain proper lane.

## Car strikes boulder in roadway

Just after midnight on Jan. 18, Kelly Whelan, 52, of Salisbury, was driving west on Route 44 near the intersection with Route 126 in North Canaan when her vehicle struck a large rock in the middle of the roadway. Whelan stated she was uninjured in the incident, but her Subaru Outback was disabled and had to be towed from the scene. No legal action was taken.

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](mailto:editor@lakevillejournal.com)

## Sharon plans for sidewalk upgrades

By Ruth Epstein

SHARON — Concrete or asphalt? That was the focus of much of the discussion at the community informational meeting Thursday, Jan. 15, about village sidewalks. Concrete appeared to be the material of choice.

Representatives from Cardinal Engineering appeared before an audience of approximately 40 residents to explain plans to rehabilitate sidewalks stretching primarily from the shopping center to Route 343 along Route 41, a distance of about two miles.

Roy Seelye, the senior project manager for the proposal, gave a detailed presentation, noting the town received \$1.1 million from the state's Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP) for the sidewalk upgrade. The town would be responsible for \$600,000 to cover the total cost.

The proposed upgrades call for 4-foot-wide sidewalks to replace existing sections that are in poor condition, with widespread cracking, breakage and uneven surfaces that in some areas sit below the roadway.

"Our aim is to maintain the historic character of the area," Seelye said. "We're rehabbing what we have. We're not extending what we have."

He outlined the method, which would involve excavating one foot down and filling in with bituminous (asphalt) material and crushed stone to prevent further root damage from surrounding trees that are causing the sidewalks to break. "We don't want to remove any trees because that would have a negative impact." He said the contractor has to hire an arborist as part of the program.

## Troopers seize THC products from North Canaan smoke shop

By Alec Linden

NORTH CANAAN — Connecticut State Police seized several pounds of illegal THC products from the East Main Street smoke shop Smoker's Choice during an enforcement action Friday, Jan. 16.

The North Canaan Resident Trooper's Office announced the following day on Facebook that the search was prompted by reports of underage customers purchasing cannabis products at area stores.

Under state law, recreational cannabis may only be sold by licensed dispensaries. While North Canaan voters narrowly approved the sale of recreational cannabis in 2023, the business involved was not licensed to sell such products according to First



PHOTO PROVIDED

The North Canaan Resident Trooper's Office shared this image showing the THC products seized from Smoker's Choice during an unannounced search on Jan. 16.

Selectman Jesse Bunce.

Authorities reported confiscating "numerous pounds of cannabis products" and said "multiple violations were discovered" during the unannounced inspection.

Bunce said the business

will face fines, noting it was the second such bust in two years at this establishment.

The enforcement effort was carried out by the Resident Trooper's Office in coordination with the state Department of Mental

Health and Addiction Services' Tobacco Prevention and Enforcement Program, the Department of Revenue Services, the Department of Consumer Protection, and the North Canaan Fire Marshal.

## P&amp;Z approves creation of West Cornwall General Business zone

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — A public hearing was held Tuesday, Jan. 13, to consider the creation of the West Cornwall General Business (WCGB) district.

The proposed zoning text amendment was submitted to the Planning and Zoning Commission in response to longstanding difficulties faced by West Cornwall business owners seeking to modify nonconforming buildings that do not meet current zoning

requirements.

The application sought to establish the WCGB district as a separate zone, distinct from the business district in Cornwall Bridge. Within the new district, applicants proposed to reduce the minimum lot size from one acre to 10,000 square feet, narrow the minimum lot width from 100 feet to 50 feet, and eliminate minimum front, side, and rear setback requirements.

Most buildings in the area predate modern zoning regulations and were constructed directly on property lines, planning consultant Martin Connor told the commission on behalf of the applicants, West Cornwall Development Group LLC.

As a result of their nonconforming status, Connor said, many property owners have been unable to make even modest improvements. He cited the Pink House as an example, noting that its owners currently store buckets and mops outdoors because they are not permitted to construct a small exterior storage closet behind the building.

Public comment was mixed, with residents voicing both concern and support. Some speakers raised questions about safety and the potential impacts of the proposed changes, while others said the amendment would help bring long-standing nonconforming properties into compliance and create a more business-friendly environment. One resident asked the commission to allow additional time to review

the application.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway spoke in favor of the proposal, saying the current zoning framework "makes it very hard for any business to expand." He added, "Having large amounts of property being zoned as nonconforming is bad planning, especially as we have for years tried to revive our business centers."

After closing the public hearing, the commission discussed the proposal during its regular meeting and considered modifications before voting.

Commissioners focused their discussion on the proposed setback distances, citing fire safety concerns tied to the village's historic character and the age of many buildings.

"Most of these buildings are old. They're not built with fire blocking," said Christine Gray, a commission member.

James LaPorta, also a commission member, raised similar concerns about safety and setbacks. "To have a zero side setback, I think, is asking for trouble in the long

run. I think five [feet] would be fine."

Commissioners said eliminating side setbacks entirely could create long-term safety risks and discussed whether a modest buffer would better balance flexibility for property owners with public safety considerations.

Commissioners also emphasized that any future applications within the district would still require review and approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission, as well as other relevant boards, including the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency, the fire marshal and the Torrington Area Health District.

Chair Anna Timell moved to approve the application with a modification setting the side and rear setbacks at five feet, while reducing the front setback to zero feet. She cited the town's Plan of Conservation and Development, which calls for reviewing and revising zoning regulations in business zones.

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## Our Towns



PHOTO BY CHRISTINA BATES

Trees are already coming down at 14 River Road, a former church built in 1900 and converted into a 2-bedroom, 2.5 bath home. Overlooking the railroad tracks and Housatonic River, the house sold for \$300,000 in November, below the listing price of \$350,000.

### Cornwall real estate

By Christine Bates

CORNWALL — The Town of Cornwall recorded six property transfers in the final quarter of 2025, typical activity for a town that averages 15 to 20 sales per year.

All recorded transfers were single-family residences, with three homes closing below \$400,000 and three above, including 175 Dibble Hill Road, which sold for \$1,075,000.

In December, the 12-month median price for a single-family residence was \$750,000, well below the January 2025 median of \$1,120,000—an all-time high for Cornwall driven by several high-end sales in 2024.

#### Transactions

36 Furnace Brook Road — 3 bedroom/2 bath ranch on 3.93 acres sold by Jane Cass Jackson and Roger Jackson to Ashleigh Marie Clare and Jacob Tyle Willis for \$415,000.

15 Cemetery Hill Road — 3 bedroom/3 bath home on 3.05 acres sold by David and Jennifer Tucker to Benjamin and Allison Lesch for \$750,000.

175 Dibble Hill Road — 2

bedroom/2 bath home built in 1938 on 18.31 acres sold by Aaron Landman to Alexandra Bogdanovich and Pax Wassermann for \$1,075,000.

14 River Road — 2 bedroom/2.5 bath former church on 0.5 acres sold by Amy Shanler and Estate of Asher Pavel to Mark Ingall and Leone Siegrist for \$300,000.

174 Bunker Hill Road — 1 bedroom/1 bath ranch built in 1930 on 1.7 acres sold by David E. Voelpel to Isaac Castro Viloria for \$285,000.

6 Rocky Cove Lane — 1 bedroom, 616 square foot seasonal waterfront cottage on Cream Lake sold by Hebridean Hideaways LLC and David J. Hubbard to Cornwall Cabin LLC for \$395,000.

\* Town of Cornwall real estate transfers recorded as transferred between Oct. 1 and Nov. 30, 2025, provided by the Cornwall Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market data courtesy of Smart MLS and InfoSparks. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in Connecticut and New York.

## Falls Village calls early voting a burden for small towns

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The Board of Selectmen approved a letter from First Selectman Dave Barger to Secretary of the State Stephanie Thomas detailing concerns about early voting procedures at its meeting Monday, Jan. 12.

In the letter, Barger said that the financial impact on Falls Village and other small towns is considerable. "The cost of staffing, as well as the difficulty in finding poll workers to cover and operate polling places for additional days often exceeds the benefit, especially when voter turnout during these periods remains low. In our town, the cost for early voting was \$8,200, with each early vote costing \$115.75."

Barger pointed out that in the most recent municip-

ipal election, only 70 — or 21% of the 326 total voters — voted during the 14-day early voting period. He wrote that the period also caused an "exponential growth in the responsibilities placed upon the Registrar of Voters."

"In a small municipality where the Registrar's role has been historically part-time employment, the increased responsibilities of scheduling and properly training poll workers, as well as changing technology and increased hours, have presented challenges for both the Registrars and their budgets."

The letter concluded: "Early voting has been a

very noble experiment, but with some serious and undue burdens for smaller municipalities. It is apparent that the one-size-fits-all requirements do not work."

#### Town updates

Barger reported receiving a letter from a resident who slipped and fell on ice along Main Street, noting that the area had previously been salted and may have refrozen.

Tim Downs of the town's highway department said crews have been operating at a heavy pace this winter, logging 55 hours of overtime per crew member and responding to 14 weather events in December alone.

Downs outlined the town's snow and ice removal process, explaining that four staff members maintain six plow routes. Roadways are cleared first, followed by sidewalks, which are addressed as early as possible, ahead of business hours and the opening of the school. He added that certain areas with poor drainage are especially prone to refreezing.

Barger said a town meeting is expected to be held in late January. Agenda items are expected to include funding for a study of the Cobble Road bridge, an amendment or rescission of the Annual Report ordinance, and approval of a lease for a new business at the town-owned 107 Main St., formerly occupied by Furnace: Art on Paper.

Selectman Judy Jacobs said the board has received three inquiries regarding the vacant 107 Main St. storefront, adding that one proposal in particular appears to be a strong fit for the area.

Jacobs also updated the board on preparations for this year's "America 250" commemoration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The celebration will include a George Washington Ball at the Colonial Theater; Revolutionary War-era cemetery tours in June; and a series of Historical Society First Tuesday Talks focused on the Revolutionary period. Festivities will continue with a July 4 event on the town Green featuring a parade, live music, a public reading of the Declaration of Independence, and a cannon firing.

## Solar project advances at HVRHS

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The Region One Board of Education approved a third phase of a solar power installation at Housatonic Valley Regional High School during its Jan. 5 meeting, continuing a multi-stage project aimed at long-term energy savings and infrastructure upgrades.

Region One Business Manager Sam Herrick provided additional details in a Friday, Jan. 16 interview, outlining the scope and financial impact of the expansion.

The first phase of the project included solar panels installed over the school's kitchen and gym, generating

128 kilowatts of power. A second phase added panels primarily to the agriculture education wing and the main building, increasing capacity by 267 kilowatts.

The newly approved third phase will add 209 kilowatts of capacity across four flat-roof sections of the campus. The agreement includes replacement of approximately 23,000 square feet of roofing in those areas — work that Herrick said would otherwise cost the district about \$400,000.

Under the arrangement, electricity generated by the system is sold back to the grid by a third-party contractor. Herrick said the project is

expected to save the district approximately \$1.2 million over 20 years.

Despite the expanded solar capacity, HVRHS has not seen a reduction in its electric bills. Herrick attributed the increase to recent renovations that included new HVAC systems in the auditorium and cafeteria.

"These systems operate continuously — whether heating, cooling or simply circulating air," Herrick said. "Even though the power bill has gone up, it would have gone up even more with the old, inefficient systems."

Overall, Herrick said the solar project is "a good deal" for the district.

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Northwell

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## REGIONAL

### Living history

The 250th anniversary of Henry Knox's 300-mile march of cannons from Fort Ticonderoga through South Berkshire to Boston was celebrated with great hoopla Saturday in Alford and Great Barrington. Shown, from left, are Bernard Drew of Great Barrington, author of "Henry Knox and the Revolutionary War Trail in Western Massachusetts" (McFarland, 2012) and former associate editor of The Lakeville Journal and Millerton News. Center is Tim Abbott of North Canaan, executive director of Housatonic Valley Association and an enthusiastic re-enactor. Right is Leigh Davis of Great Barrington, Berkshire 3rd District representative to the General Court in Boston.



PHOTO BY DONNA DREW

## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

A certified list of 22 Democrat party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Sharon for election as Members of the Town Committee at Large is on file in my office at 63 Main Street, Sharon, Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution. The number of Town Committee Members to be elected, under party rules, is 25.

A primary will be held March 3, 2026 if 6 candidacies (which is at least 25% of the number of town committee members to be elected by such party in the municipality) are filed in accordance with Conn. General Statutes 9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, by persons other than party endorsed candidates, not later than 4:00 p.m. of January 28, 2026, provided the number of such candidacies plus the number of endorsed candidates, exceeds the number of town committee members to be elected. (If the number of opposing candidacies filed is reduced to less than such 25%, no primary will be held.) Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing opposing candidacies, may be obtained from Marel E. Rogers, Democratic Registrar of Voters, 63 Main Street, Sharon, CT.

Bianca DelTufo  
Sharon Town Clerk

### LEGAL NOTICE

A certified list of 8 Republican party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Sharon for election as Members of the Town Committee at Large is on file in my office at 63 Main Street, Sharon, Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution. The number of Town Committee Members to be elected, under party rules, is 20.

A primary will be held March 3, 2026 if 5 candidacies (which is at least 25% of the number of town committee members to be elected by such party in the municipality) are filed in accordance with Conn. General Statutes 9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, by persons other than party endorsed candidates, not later than 4:00 p.m. of January 28, 2026, provided the number of such candidacies plus the number of endorsed candidates, exceeds the number of town committee members to be elected. (If the number of opposing candidacies filed is reduced to less than such 25%, no primary will be held.) Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing opposing candidacies, may be obtained from Jennifer Law, Democratic Registrar of Voters, 27 Main Street, Salisbury, Connecticut.

### LEGAL NOTICE

A certified list of 28 Democratic party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Salisbury for election as Members of the Town Committee At-Large is on file in my office at 27 Main Street, Salisbury, Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution. The number of Town Committee Members to be elected, under party rules, is 30.

A Primary will be held March 3, 2026 if 8 candidacies (which is at least 25% of the number of town committee members to be elected by such party in the municipality) are filed in accordance with §§9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, of the General Statutes, by persons other than party-endorsed candidates, not later than 4:00 p.m. of January 28, 2026, provided the number of such candidacies plus the number of endorsed candidates, exceeds the number of town committee members to be elected. (If the number of opposing candidacies filed is reduced to less than such 25%, no primary will be held.) Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing opposing candidacies, may be obtained from Maureen Dell, Republican Registrar of Voters, 27 Main Street, Salisbury, Connecticut.

Kristine M Simmons  
Town Clerk of Salisbury  
01-22-26

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### TOWN OF CORNWALL

#### NEW OFFICE HOURS:

Monday 1:00 - 4:00 & Wednesday 9:00 - Noon

Pursuant to Sec. 12-145 of the Connecticut statutes, the Tax Collector, Town of Cornwall gives notice that she will be ready to receive Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes and the 2nd installment of Real Estate & Personal Property taxes due January 1, 2026 at the Cornwall Town Hall, PO Box 97, 26 Pine St., West Cornwall, CT 06753. Payments must be received or postmarked by February 2, 2026 to avoid interest.

All taxes remaining unpaid after February 2, 2026 will be charged interest from January 1, 2026 at the rate of 1.5% for each month from the due date of the delinquent tax to the date of payment, with a minimum interest charge of \$2.00. Sec. 12-146

Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the taxpayer of their responsibility for the payment of taxes or delinquent charges. Sec. 12-30

Rebecca Juchert-Derungs,  
CCMC  
12-11-25  
01-22-26

### LEGAL NOTICE

A certified list of 12 Republican party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Salisbury for election as Members of the Town Committee At-Large is on file in my office at 27 Main Street, Salisbury, Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution. The number of Town Committee Members to be elected, under party

## LEGAL NOTICES

### Legal Notice

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing to amend the Town of Salisbury Zoning Regulations for the following purposes:

1. to provide that family child care homes and group child care homes, located in a residence, are allowed in residential zones, as required by Public Act 23-142;
2. to correct inconsistent spelling and formatting of terms;
3. to eliminate duplicative language; and

4. to remove obsolete references and regulations, including the regulation of telecommunication towers that are under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Connecticut Siting Council.

The hearing will be held on Monday February 2, 2026 at 5:45 PM. There is no physical location for this meeting. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom where interested persons can listen to & speak on the matter. The agenda and meeting instructions will be listed at [www.salisburyct.us/agendas/](http://www.salisburyct.us/agendas/). The regulation materials will be listed at [www.salisburyct.us/planning-zoning-meeting-documents/](http://www.salisburyct.us/planning-zoning-meeting-documents/). Written comments may be submitted to the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, P.O. Box 548, Salisbury, CT or via email to [landuse@salisburyct.us](mailto:landuse@salisburyct.us). Paper copies of the agenda, meeting instructions, and regulations may be reviewed Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM at the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Salisbury CT.

Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission  
Robert Riva, Secretary  
01-22-26  
01-29-26

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### TOWN OF CANAAN/ FALLS VILLAGE

NEW OFFICE HOURS:  
Monday 9am-Noon & Thursday 8am-11am.

Pursuant to Sec. 12-145 of the Connecticut statutes, the Tax Collector, Town of Canaan gives notice that she will be ready to receive Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes and the 2nd installment of Real Estate & Personal Property taxes due January 1, 2026 at the Canaan Town Hall, PO Box 47, 108 Main St., Falls Village, CT 06031.

Payments must be received or postmarked by February 2, 2026 to avoid interest.

All taxes remaining unpaid after February 2, 2026 will be charged interest from January 1, 2026 at the rate of 1.5% for each month from the due date of the delinquent tax to the date of payment, with a minimum interest charge of \$2.00. Sec. 12-146

Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the taxpayer of their responsibility for the payment of taxes or delinquent charges. Sec. 12-30

Rebecca Juchert-Derungs,  
CCMC  
12-04-25  
01-22-26

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### TOWN OF KENT

The second installment of the Real Estate and Personal Property tax for the Grand List of 2024 is due and payable January 1, 2026. The Motor Vehicle Supplemental tax for the

Grand List of 2024 is due and payable on January 1, 2026. The second installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property and the Motor Vehicle Supplemental tax for the Grand List of 2024 will become delinquent on Tuesday, February 3, 2026.

As soon as the tax becomes delinquent, it shall be subject to interest at the rate of 1.5% per month from January 1, 2026 until the same is paid.

Bills may be viewed and paid online by going to the Tax Collector's page on the Town of Kent website at [www.townofkentct.gov](http://www.townofkentct.gov).

The Tax Collector's office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

There is a red drop box next to the front door of the Town Hall for payments.

Payments are also welcome through the mail at P. O. Box 311, Kent, Connecticut 06757.

Deborah Devaux CCMC  
Tax Collector  
12-18-25  
01-08-26  
01-22-26

### 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 January 12, 2026:

Denied without Prejudice - Application IWWC-25-81 by Cole Leibrock for "Filling in a man-made pond approximately 25 feet across and 6 feet deep." The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map and lot 02 41 and is known as 32 Valley Road, Lakeville. The owners of the property are Harry & Trudy Kramer.

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.

Town of Salisbury  
Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission  
Sally Spillane, Secretary  
01-22-26

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

#### ESTATE OF JAMES E. KINTZEL

#### Late of Pennsylvania AKA James Edward Kintzel (25-00503)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated January 8, 2026, 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:

Donna W. Cooke  
65 Orchard Street  
North Canaan, CT 06018

Megan M. Foley  
Clerk  
01-22-26

### TAX COLLECTOR

#### TOWN OF SALISBURY CT

#### LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to Sec 12-145 of the Connecticut State Statutes, the taxpayers of the Town of Salisbury are hereby notified that the third installment of the Grand List October 1, 2024 is due and payable January 1, 2026. Pursuant to Section 12-71b of the Connecticut State Statutes, the Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax is due on January 1, 2026. Payments must be received or postmarked by February 2, 2026. If said Real Estate, Personal Property and Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes are not paid on or before February 2, 2026, interest at the rate of 1% (18% per year) will be added for each month from the time when such tax becomes due and payable until paid. Minimum interest \$2.00.

Mail to: Tax Collector, P.O. Box 338, Salisbury, CT 06068 or at Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9am-4pm (Closed for lunch 12:30-1:30) or use the drop box located in the vestibule of the Town Hall or on side of building by parking area. Pay online [www.salisburyct.us](http://www.salisburyct.us). Click blue tab View/Pay Taxes. A fee is charged.

Dated at Salisbury CT this 3rd day of December 2025.

Jean F. Bell, CCMC  
Tax Collector  
Salisbury CT 06068  
12-18-25  
01-08-26  
01-22-26

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

#### ESTATE OF MARY CARROLL MARDEN

#### Late of New York AKA M.C. Marden (25-00247)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the

Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated January 8, 2026, 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 fiduciaries are:

David C. Marden  
c/o Linda M Patz

Drury, Patz & Citrin, LLP

7 Church Street, P.O.

Box 101

Canaan, CT 06018

Sarah Guidotti  
c/o Linda M Patz

Drury, Patz & Citrin, LLP

7 Church Street, P.O.

Box 101

Canaan, CT 06018

Megan M. Foley  
Clerk

01-22-26

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

#### ESTATE OF ROBERT A. COOKE

#### Late of Canaan (25-00511)

The Hon. Jordan M.

Richards, Judge of the

Court of Probate, District

of Litchfield Hills Probate

Court, by decree dated

January 8, 2026, 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:

Donna W. Cooke  
65 Orchard Street

North Canaan, CT 06018

Megan M. Foley  
Clerk

01-22-26

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

#### ESTATE OF JAMES E. KINTZEL

#### Late of Pennsylvania AKA James Edward Kintzel (25-00503)

The Hon. Jordan M.

Richards, Judge of the

Court of Probate, District

of Litchfield Hills Probate

Court, by decree dated

January 8, 2026, ordered

that all claims must be

presented to the fid

## OBITUARIES

### Marjorie A. Vreeland

SALISBURY — Marjorie A. Vreeland, 98, passed away peacefully at Noble Horizons, on Jan. 10, 2026. She was surrounded by her two loving children, Richard and Nancy. She was born in Bronxville, New York, on Aug. 9, 1927, to Alice (Meyer) and Joseph Casey, both of whom were deceased by the time she was 14. She attended public schools in the area and graduated from Eastchester High School in Tuckahoe and, in 1946 she graduated from The Wood School of Business in New York City.

At 19 years old, she married Everett W. Vreeland of White Plains, New York and for a few years they lived in Ithaca, New York, where Everett was studying to become a veterinarian at Cornell. After a short stint in Coos Bay, Oregon (Mike couldn't stand the cloudy, rainy weather!) they moved back east to Middletown, Connecticut for three years where Dr. Vreeland worked for Dr. Pieper's veterinary practice. In Aug. of 1955, Dr. and Mrs. Vreeland moved to North Kent, Connecticut with their children and started Dr. Vreeland's Veterinary practice. In Sept. of 1968 Marjorie, or "Mike" as she wished to be called, took a "part-time job" at the South Kent School. She retired from South Kent 23 years later on Sept. 1, 1991. Aside from office help and book-keeping she was secretary to the Headmaster and also taught Public Speaking and Typing. In other times she worked as an assistant to the

Town Clerk in Kent, an office worker and receptionist at Ewald Instruments Corp. and as a volunteer at the Kent Library.

"Mike" loved the sun, sand and water and spent many summers at Westport Point, Massachusetts with the kids and their best friends, the Bauers. She was the consummate hostess, and a wonderful cook. She also appeared in several plays with The Sherman Players and also a show or two on special occasions at The Kent Community House.

She took enjoyment from working outdoors doing chores around her home in North Kent. She lived in that house until she sold it and bought a condominium on North Main Street in Kent in May of 2003. She lived in the condo until 2018 after which her light began to fade and her last 8 years were spent comfortably at Noble Horizons.

"Mike" leaves behind her children, Richard (Susan) of Lakeville, her daughter Nancy Rutledge (Jim) of Salisbury; two grandchildren, Chandra Gerrard (Sean) of Litchfield, Matthew (Larissa) of Lakeville; three great grandchildren, Addison, Emilia and Everett, all of Lakeville.

She was predeceased by her beloved granddaughter Caroline in 2020.

All services are private. The Ryan Funeral Home, 255 Main St., Lakeville, is in charge of arrangements.

To offer an online condolence, please visit [ryanfhct.com](http://ryanfhct.com)

### Edward Aparo

TACONIC — Edward Aparo passed away peacefully at his home on Jan. 7, 2026, surrounded by his loving family.

Edward was born on May 10, 1936, in New Britain, Connecticut. He was the beloved son of the late Anthony and Rose Valenti Aparo and attended New Britain schools. On April 7, 1958 Edward married his school sweetheart, Jean Ackerman beginning a devoted marriage that spanned 67 years. Together they built a life rooted in family, hard work and love.

Edward began his career working in the family business, Aparo's Electric Motor Service Inc. where he learned

the trade alongside his father. Following his father's passing, Edward became the owner of the business, carrying on the family legacy with dedication and pride.

Edward is survived by his loving wife, Jean Ackerman Aparo, his sons Stephen Aparo and his wife Marie of New Britain, Connecticut, and Craig Aparo and his wife Valerie of Naples, Florida; his sister Arlene Aparo St. Germain and husband Joseph of Hobe Sound, Florida, and his cherished grandchildren; Danny Aparo and wife Nicole, Tyler Aparo and Morgan Wilson and Jared Aparo all of New Britain.

Services will be private.

### Roger D. Ovitt

TORRINGTON — Roger D. Ovitt, 91, of 35 Berry St. Torrington, died peacefully at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was the husband of Barbara (Webb) Ovitt of Torrington. Roger was born June 28, 1934 in Amenia, New York, son of the late Ronald and Edna Lucy (King) Ovitt.

Roger had worked for 36 years as a crusher operator for the former Pfizer Corporation in Canaan. After retiring from Pfizer in 1992, Roger joined his brother, Brian, and began a new career as a house painter. Roger enjoyed this venture with his brother. He was an avid fisherman. Roger also loved to garden. He took great pride in the flowers and vegetables that he raised.

In addition to his wife, Roger is survived by his children; Donald Ovitt and his wife Alissa of Clarksville, Tennessee, Jennifer Godburn and her husband Stephen of Sarasota, Florida, Valerie Bachman and her husband Paul of Torrington, Connecticut, Stephanie Follett of Ashley Falls, Massachusetts, and Nelson Roddy and his wife Mary of Lakeville, Connecticut. Roger is also

survived by his sister, Eleanor Hineman of Connecticut, and his three brothers; Robert Ovitt of Southfield, Massachusetts, Brian Ovitt and his wife Alice of Sheffield, Massachusetts, and Gary Ovitt and his wife Cheryl of Sheffield, Massachusetts; his brother-in-law Charlton Webb of Winsted, Connecticut; 12 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Roger was predeceased by his daughter, Penny Fallon, sister Joy Eichstedt, brothers Ronald, Carlton, Jerry, Wayne, and Raymond Ovitt, his grandson Shawn Bachman, his great-grandson Eli Green, and his step-father Edwin Mansir.

A Celebration of Roger's Life will be held on Saturday Jan. 24, 2026, at 11 a.m. in the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home 118 Main St. North Canaan, CT 06018.

Calling hours will be held at the funeral home on Saturday from 10 a.m. until the service begins at 11 a.m.

Memorial donations in Roger's memory may be made to Connecticut Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association 10 Executive Drive Suite 202 Farmington, CT 06032.

## SPORTS



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

### Middle school basketball

Region One's boys and girls teams took on Northwestern in Winsted Thursday, Jan. 15. The boys game was won by Region One 62-41. The girls game was won by Northwestern 27-14. Athletes in both games played with intensity and passion. More photos online at [lakevillejournal.com](http://lakevillejournal.com) or [socialmedia@lakevillejournal](http://socialmedia@lakevillejournal)

### In Loving Memory of Peter C. Roosa

October 12, 1950 to January 11, 2019

Time slips by and life goes on  
But from our hearts you're never gone.  
We think about you always, we talk about  
you too, we have so many memories but we  
wish we still had you.

You are deeply loved:  
Phyllis, Jamie, Nonnie,  
The Petkovich and Roosa Family

### In Loving Memory of Jeffery Jay Petkovich

May 12, 1968 to January 20, 1990

May the wings of Heaven blow softly  
and whisper in your ear  
How much we love and miss you and  
Wish that you were here.

You are loved deeply:  
Mom, Jamie, Nonnie

### Robin Lee Roy

FALLS VILLAGE — Robin Lee Roy, 62, of Zephyrhills, Florida, passed away Jan. 14, 2026.

She was a long-time CNA, serving others with compassion for more than 20 years before retiring from Heartland in Florida.

Robin loved the beach, sunshine, and gardening, and was known for her strength,

humor, and unwavering support of those she loved.

She is survived by her daughter, Sierra R. Zinke, and brothers, Darren Roy and Todd Roy.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Sharon Thomkins Roy and Robert Roy, and her brother Nevin Roy.

No services will be held at this time.

### Rafael A. Porro

SALISBURY — Rafael A. Porro, 88, of 4 Undermountain Road, passed away Jan. 6, 2026, at Sharon Hospital. Rafael was born on April 19, 1937 in Camaguey, Cuba the son of Jose Rafael Porro and Clemencia Molina de Porro.

He graduated from the Englewood School for Boys in Englewood, New Jersey and attended Columbia University School of General Studies. Rafael retired as a law library clerk from the law firm of Curtis, Mallet Prevost in 2002 and came to live in Salisbury to be nearer to his sister, Chany Wells.

Rafael is survived by his

sister, Chany Wells, his nephew Conrad Wells (Gillian), and by numerous cousins in North Carolina, Florida, Wyoming, Arizona, Cuba and Canada. He was the eldest of the cousins and acknowledged family historian. He will be greatly missed.

A memorial service will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church in June. Memorial contributions may be made to Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service, St. John's Episcopal Church in Salisbury and Scoville Memorial Library.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

## Worship Services

Week of January 25, 2026

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

**The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.**  
30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT  
Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!  
Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming  
[www.salisburyucc.org](http://www.salisburyucc.org)  
Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy!  
(860) 435-2442

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

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT  
SUNDAY SERVICE  
10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)  
Rev. Dr. John Johnson,  
Priest-in-Charge  
*In Person and on YouTube*  
[www.stjohnssalisbury.org](http://www.stjohnssalisbury.org)

**North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC**  
Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people  
172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT  
Worship services Sundays at 10 am  
[www.facebook.com/northcananacongregational](http://www.facebook.com/northcananacongregational)  
860-824-7252

**Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT**  
Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons  
Sunday, February 8 at 10:30 a.m.  
**SCIENCE and RELIGION: Is there a connection?**  
For information, contact Jo Lai at [jolaiuloi@gmail.com](mailto:jolaiuloi@gmail.com)  
All are Welcome

**Congregation Beth David**  
A reform Jewish Synagogue  
3544 East Main St., Amenia  
**SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM**  
Twice Monthly - Followed by Oneg (Calendar at [congbethdavid.org](http://congbethdavid.org))  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
Rabbi Jon Haddon  
845-373-8264  
[info@congbethdavid.org](mailto:info@congbethdavid.org)

**ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH**  
Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk  
St. Joseph, 5 Main Street, Canaan  
St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville  
**MASS SCHEDULE**  
Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church  
Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary  
Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church  
**DAILY MASS SCHEDULE**  
Wednesday 6 pm, St. Joseph Chapel or Church  
Thursday 8 am, Immaculate Conception Church  
Friday 8 am, Church of St. Mary  
ALL ARE WELCOME!  
For information, please call 860-824-7078

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

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

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

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**  
40 Leedsville Road, Amenia Union, NY  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30**  
IN-PERSON AND ONLINE  
Visit our website for links  
845-373-9161  
[www.stthomasamenia.com](http://www.stthomasamenia.com)  
A Community of Radical Christianity

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

**Promised Land Baptist Church**  
29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT  
Where you will find: A Warm Welcome!  
Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow!  
Sunday School - 10 am  
Sunday Worship - 11 am  
Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7 PM  
(860) 824-5685  
VISITORS WELCOME!  
[www.promisedlandbaptist.org](http://www.promisedlandbaptist.org)

**Sharon Congregational**  
25 Main Street, Sharon, CT  
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.  
Visit our website [sharoncongregationalchurch.org](http://sharoncongregationalchurch.org) for Sunday services  
Contact us at 860-364-5002 or [info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org](mailto:info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org)

**Canaan United Methodist Church**  
2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT  
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](http://canaanct-umc.com)  
[canaanctumc@gmail.com](mailto:canaanctumc@gmail.com)  
We hope you will join us!

# Opinion

## The Lakeville Journal

EDITORIAL PAGE A6

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Sharon is the best place in the world to live

Sharon, Connecticut, is the best place in the world to live.

I've lived here for the past five years — originally from New York moved to Millerton in 1997 and found Sharon to be a very beneficial place to live. First of all, the townspeople are amazing. You have many shops and doctors such as Dr. Colite, the dentist.

He is a very caring person and understanding. For instance, I need a great deal of dental work and he offered to give me time payments however it wasn't necessary I was very impressed because in the city that would never happen.

The hospital is another blessing. I have never had such a wonderful experience at a hospital in my life. I have a family that lives in Florida, my mother-in-law

and my sister-in-law came to visit me and fell in love with this town. When they went back to Florida she sold her home and bought a home in Sharon.

However, they moved and about six months later my mother-in-law had a serious problem. She was bleeding internally and was rushed to Sharon Hospital. What they did was a miracle. They called Dr. Cole and his skill stopped the bleeding so fast that she did not need a transfusion.

She needed extra help and is now in Sharon rehab center. We had found the care here is special and we appreciate everything that this town has to offer and I hope that the people of Sharon would feel the way that my family feels about Sharon, Connecticut.

Angelo Prunella  
Sharon

## Honor Yerkes and keep Salisbury Ambulance

Just before her death in 2019, Franny Yerkes made a generous gift to her beloved Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service (SVAS), where she served for thirty years as both an EMT and Secretary of the Squad. Her goal was to help ensure the long-term health and viability of SVAS by supporting the substantial costs of training and certification for Squad members and new recruits.

From this gift, the Franny Fund was created. Over the past five years, it has paid for training tuition and related expenses that would otherwise have been borne by individual members.

Through additional contributions from Franny's family and friends, the Fund has grown, and an endowment has now

been established to keep the Franny Fund healthy and active in perpetuity.

SVAS is funded entirely by private donations and does not charge for its lifesaving services. If you value this remarkable organization that serves this very special town, please consider joining me in contributing to the SVAS Franny Fund Endowment.

Donations may be sent to SVAS, P.O. Box 582, Salisbury.

Our goal is to raise \$50,000 for the endowment.

I know Franny would be deeply pleased to see how her Fund continues to support the Squad she loved so much. Thank you.

Lee Hayes  
Warren, Rhode Island

## One year into Donald Trump's second term

One year into the Trump administration and we've seen the majority of the Jan. 6, 2021 Capitol invaders pardoned.

One year into the Trump administration and we've seen an increase in worldwide violence directed towards people of color, Hispanics and people of Asian and Jewish descent.

One year into the Trump administration and we've listened to threats of changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico, taking over Greenland through whatever means

necessary, an invasion of Venezuela and now possible further military actions in Iran.

One year into the Trump administration and we've seen I.C.E. troops move into several "sanctuary" cities which either have Democratic Governors or Mayors, or states which voted overwhelmingly Democratic in the last election. We've witnessed these I.C.E. soldiers act in alarmingly violent behaviors.

One year into the Trump administration and now

we've witnessed the blatant killing of Minneapolis resident Renee Nicole Good. Whatever situation she found herself driving in during an ice storm cost her her life. Mrs. Good could have been any of our daughters, sisters or Mother. Where does an I.C.E. officer get off calling her a "Fuc...in Bitch"? If these officers are sufficiently trained why didn't they simply shoot out her tires and take her into custody for whatever infraction they perceived? Why are these I.C.E. officers so violent?



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

### A New England winter

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## A New Chapter for Sharon Hospital: Our Commitment to the Northwest Corner

At Northwell Health, we are incredibly excited and deeply committed to our new hospitals in Connecticut, including the future of Sharon Hospital. We understand that Sharon Hospital is more than just a building; it is a cornerstone of this community, a place of healing, comfort, and trust built over generations.

We hear the concerns about healthcare access in rural areas — the challenges of a "health care desert," the distances, and the need for reliable, local services. That's precisely why our commitment to Sharon Hospital includes being a community partner, listening intently to community needs and ensuring you have reliable local care.

That commitment includes the preservation and advancement of vital services, including com-

prehensive women's health services. We understand that the availability of obstetrics is profoundly important, and we are committed to maintaining these services at Sharon Hospital. Our goal is to ensure that future generations can continue to be safely born and compassionately cared for right here in Sharon.

As Attorney General William Tong rightly emphasized, "miles and minutes matter when it comes to labor and delivery," and we believe every family deserves access to safe, local maternity care. At Northwell Health, we don't believe in a "hub-and-spoke" model of care where patients requiring most specialized services are referred into only the most advanced facilities. We've always believed in care being provided as locally as possible, so long as local expertise

can provide such care safely. We believe that obstetrical care at Sharon is evidence of this commitment.

But our commitment extends far beyond that. We will maintain Sharon Hospital as a full-service community hospital, ensuring 24/7 surgical capabilities and a robust, full-service emergency department. Our plan isn't just about maintaining; it's about improving services and enhancing access in the community. Northwell is incredibly committed to ambulatory network development — we are today a network of 28 hospitals and 1,050 ambulatory practices. While enhancing care for the community will always be viewed through the lens of capabilities at Sharon Hospital, ensuring the right care is being provided in the right setting is also a part of our commitment. At Northwell, nearly 80 percent of our patient encounters take place outside of a hospital, with a focus on providing services in the most efficient and patient-centric environment possible.

This acquisition is backed by significant investment. Northwell has committed to injecting at least \$1 billion across Nuvance hospitals in Connecticut and New York over the next five years, a

process that we've already begun, ensuring capital, expertise, and support for long-term fiscal stability and critical growth investments at places like Sharon. We're also integrating advanced systems, like a unified electronic records management system, to enhance care coordination.

Our partnership with the Connecticut and New York Attorneys General, as well as the Connecticut Office of Health Strategy, reflects our shared goal: to safeguard the interests of Connecticut patients and providers, ensuring accessible, quality healthcare for this community for years to come.

Northwell Health is honored to become an even greater part of this community, and we are grateful for the community's engagement and partnership. We are confident that, together, we will not only secure Sharon Hospital's future but elevate its capacity to serve, providing the essential, high-quality care this vibrant community deserves.

John D'Angelo, MD,  
Northwell Health  
president and CEO

Kevin Beiner,  
Northwell Health  
Chief operating officer  
Sharon

### WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

#### Christian Murray

Executive Editor  
christianm@  
lakevillejournal.com

#### Riley Klein

Managing Editor  
rileyk@lakevillejournal.com

#### Patrick L. Sullivan

Senior Reporter  
patrickks@lakevillejournal.com

#### Alec Linden

Reporter  
alecl@lakevillejournal.com

#### Sandra Lang

Subscriptions/Billing  
circulation@  
lakevillejournal.com

#### Roxanne Lee, Mary Wilbur

Advertising  
advertising@  
lakevillejournal.com

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and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.

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### HUMAN WRONGS



CARTOON TO THE EDITOR BY STEVE DUTTON

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## Viewpoint

# Gen Z is facing hard times despite a growing economy

**THE RETIRED INVESTOR**  
**BILL SCHMICK**

Gen Zers report experiencing symptoms of stress and anxiety.

While Wall Street opened the year celebrating the promise of a bright future, thanks to AI. Opinion leaders predict that artificial intelligence, robots, and space, among other technological breakthroughs, will dramatically reshape the way the world works.

For college grads, all they see is a no-fire, no-hire labor market where unemployment among workers ages 20 to 24 continues to rise. It is now to 5.3% and even worse for those younger than that.

The National Association of Colleges and Employers predict the entry-level hiring crisis will worsen this year, rating job prospects as poor or at best fair. At a recent gathering of employers at the Yale School of Management, 66% admitted they planned to cut jobs or freeze hiring.

With an economy that is expected to grow by 3% in 2026, one would have expected the opposite reaction, but then you would not be reckoning with the impact of artificial intelligence on the job market. Potential employers are concerned and uncertain about how AI might reshape the workforce over the next

few years, and rightfully so.

Most analysts believe that many white-collar positions, especially at the entry level, will be replaced by technological advancement. Under-scoring that concern, many corporate giants, including Amazon, UPS, Target, and Google, announced layoffs affecting more than 60,000 jobs. And to many, that is just the tip of the iceberg.

Faced with taking fast-food jobs at minimum wage and lacking work experience in their hoped-for professions, 3 in 5 Gen Z workers are looking elsewhere for a job with some kind of reasonable future. Almost half of these young workers believe the blue-collar jobs may offer better long-term security than corporate work in the technology fields. The top sectors pursued by Gen Z include plumbing, automotive repair, construction, and electrical work.

I happen to agree with that belief, but unfortunately, Gen Z applicants face the same barrier to entry in their white-collar arena—lack of experience. Many job applicants, regardless of industry, are now required to have at least 3 years of experience and up to 5 years before being considered.

The lure of six-figure salaries in the blue-collar area is attracting more Gen Zs to vocational schools. However, what many conveniently forget is that earning that kind of take-home pay requires years

of experience, a substantial investment in personal tools and equipment, and serious wear and tear on the body.

As I write this, in the next room, a 65-year-old builder I'll call Scott, who is going in for his second knee replacement next month, is building another room in our condo. Assisting him is a young GenZer. There is a constant stream of chatter as Scott talks through his drywalling process. His helper listens intently. They seem eager to learn and ask questions as they work. He did the same when he placed the struts and erected the wall.

For several years, Scott has been involved in a local high school program that teaches vocational school grads his business, while they gain on-the-job experience and a paycheck. Scott and others like him are providing a solution one day at a time. He is one answer to the dilemma facing this struggling generation. This country needs more Scotts to hire and teach a young workforce in need.

Next week, I will highlight one area where many Gen Xers have found an alternative to home ownership. It holds risks but doesn't cost an arm and a leg to get involved.

*Bill Schmick is a founding partner of Onota Partners, Inc., in the Berkshires. Bill's forecasts and opinions are purely his own and do not necessarily represent the views of Onota Partners, Inc. (OPI).*



PHOTO BY CAITLIN HANLON

**Blue Jay**

## A pinch of salt

**THE SALISBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION ENJOYED READING THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL'S DECEMBER 22 ARTICLE, "NORTHWEST CORNER MUNICIPALITIES WEIGH SALT USAGE AS WINTER RETURNS" AND IS GRATEFUL FOR HIS THOUGHTFUL RESEARCH.**

It so happens that the Conservation Commission was working on a similar article — that it hoped to get out before the summer — entitled "A Pinch of Salt."

Here are more thoughts on the road salt situation, especially as it pertains to Salisbury.

It is winter, and who knows what might fall from the skies onto our roads and make them unsafe for travel.

Fortunately, Salisbury has nine cracker-jack members of the Highway Department, aka The Road Crew, and after our discussion with Crew Chief, Russell Hoage on November 10th, and then with Hoage and Thomas Brazee, Road Chief, in December, we feel confident telling you that

Salisbury's roads will be safe for school buses, emergency vehicles, town trucks and private vehicles this winter while environmental issues are forefront on minds and being addressed.

The Salisbury Highway Department monitors three different weather apps 24/7 to determine when and where they need to tend to ice build-up on our 60 plus miles of town roads to make winter travel safe. They are on call around the clock. The microcosms at higher elevations, such as the top of Belgo Road, typically need earlier attention than the lower roads. Before the salt/sand mixture is applied to the roads, the crew uses articulating plows to scrape off as much snow and ice, creating conditions needing less melt. (Bear in mind that the State maintains Routes 41, 44, 112 and parts of 7 with pure salt for a no-snow mandate.)

Salisbury's roads are maintained using Salisbury's signature gorgeous orange trucks. A recently purchased truck cost about \$300,000. The Salisbury Highway Department is building the body for this truck, saving

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION CORNER**  
**LEE FINDLAY POTTER**

the town a lot of money, which will be stainless to prevent corrosion.

Hoage orders about 800 tons of sodium chloride a year from Apalachee Salt in Rochester, NY for about \$102,000. The salt is carefully stored in a shed that has a separate bay for sand. A mixture of 2 buckets of sand to one bucket of salt is used. Hoage feels this is the best balance of melt to traction to keep roads safe, costs down and have as little sodium chloride run off as possible.

While we certainly want safe roads in the winter, we also want to protect our water sources for safe drinking water and aquatic life.

The condition of having too much salt, or fertilizer, sewage, industrial waste, or silt build up in water, which then causes algal blooms and depletes oxygen, is called eutrophication. Eutrophication is harmful to aquatic life and to the plants and organisms that filter water and make it safe to drink.

It is interesting to think that several of Salisbury's modest rivers and streams flow to the Atlantic Ocean. If one is standing at the Scoville Library, one can see the Wachocastinook Brook and maybe hear the Salmon Kill. They are both cold-water streams known for supporting trout, that come from high elevation Riga Lake and South Pond, and both flow into the Housatonic, which is a source for Long Island Sound. When we act locally by keeping chemicals out of our water, we are also acting globally and keeping pollutants out of our oceans.

The Highway Department asks everyone to slow down! And during storms, please travel only if necessary.

*Please reach us at conservationcommission@salisburyct.us for comments and suggestions.*

## Status Report

Whole milk will return to school cafeterias across the United States following President Donald Trump's signing on Jan. 14, 2026, of the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act. U.S. Congresswoman Jahan Hayes, D-5, was among the bill's 118 House co-sponsors. Schools will still be required to meet federal nutrition requirements for reimbursable meals, but milk fat will no longer count toward saturated fat limits under the new rules.

## Realtor® at Large

There is an interesting article in the CT Mirror which forecasts the effects of the Big Beautiful Bill recently passed by Congress on Connecticut residents. As you might imagine, it will be the upper income levels that will benefit the most and this comes on the backs of the lower income households. I had no idea that Connecticut ranked 4th in the nation for wealth inequality, which is not where we want to be! My sense is that this inequity will be compounded by cuts in SNAP and social support programs such as mental illness prevention. So what can we do here in the NW Corner? My thought is to be aware of this issue and increase our support for programs like our local food banks and our social service support offices found in each town. Please visit the following link for more information: [ctmirror.org/2026/01/16/big-beautiful-bill-impact-your-ct-town/](http://ctmirror.org/2026/01/16/big-beautiful-bill-impact-your-ct-town/)



**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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The college-age generation is grappling with inflation, increasing housing prices, climate change, and now mass corporate layoffs. In a world where geopolitical turmoil is increasing, the ground beneath their feet is shifting. Many believe their future is bleak.

My nephew, Joey, just got married. His wife lives with her parents, and he lives with his. While he makes good money as a pharmacy manager at a national chain drugstore, neither he nor his wife can afford even a down payment on a house in Long Island. They are moving in with the wife's parents. Joey's sister is also married with two children. They also live with their parents. Welcome to the American dream turned nightmare for almost 70 million young Americans.

The typical age range of Gen Z is 1997 to 2012. They are the demographic cohort succeeding Millennials and preceding Generation Alpha. They are the most racially and ethnically diverse generation in America, with 48% being non-white.

Almost all of this generation is highly active on social media. Almost 60% are planning to pursue a college education. They are just as likely to identify as Republicans, Democrats, or Independents. As such, the present populist upheaval the U.S. is undergoing takes an inordinate toll on them. It may be why 91% of

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

**NORMA BOSWORTH**

### 125 years ago —

**January 1901**

There seems to be more small pox than in years past. Small pox is a pretty scary disease, but it doesn't kill half as many as gripe and consumption.

They say Tesla has received a message from Mars. This sort of beats Col. Stone's Winsted tales in the New York papers.

**CHAPINVILLE** — The C.N.E.R.R. Co. has commenced filling their creamy ice house, from the Twin Lakes. Thomas O'Hara has the contract of sawing the ice which is about nine inches thick.

It is said there is a big scheme on foot to take the water from the Housatonic and Ten Mile rivers for New York City. The streams would be dammed and many miles of valuable farm land would be submerged and the Housatonic rendered useless for manufacturing purposes.

Adv.: For sale at a great bargain the following articles in excellent condition, but useless to owner because of alterations in house: — 2 pairs fine lace curtains, 1 brass bedstead (double), 1 parlor sofa (mahogany and silk). For further information apply at this office.

After the ice storm of last Friday, the view which ever way one might look was one of beauty. Every twig had been provided with the ice king's diamonds and when the sunlight fell upon them they sparkled and shone in a dazzling fashion.

### 100 years ago —

**January 1926**

The women are always ready to insist upon having their rights and generally get some that belong to the masculine element. About the only

thing strictly masculine that is left to the male is his mustache.

**FOR SALE** — Seasoned chestnut wood sawed in stove lengths. \$4.50 per 2 horse double box load. Edward O'Neil, Lakeville.

Editor Krouse of the Connecticut Western News has announced that he will resign his position at least for a time, owing to the fact that his health is not all that it should be. His many friends hope that he will soon be himself again at the helm of the News.

### 50 years ago —

**January 1976**

Canaan Products Inc., makers of Wash 'n Dry, have announced they will close out manufacturing operations in Canaan by the end of March. Approximately 40 employees will lose their jobs, according to plant manager James E. Shepherd.

The concept of cable television for northwest Connecticut is still alive but is a "close question as to investment," according to Haystack Cablevision spokesman Nicholas Eddy. Mr. Eddy, one of three partners working to bring cable television to the area, said no progress has been made.

The Lakeville Journal was awarded third place for General Excellence among all weekly newspapers in New England of 5000-6999 circulation at the New England Press Association meeting in Boston last Friday. The Journal also took second place for the Best Editorial Page in its circulation group, Class III. Those two awards brought to 14 the number of citations for excellence achieved by The Lakeville Journal in the last five years.

Fingerprints lifted from the cottage where Barbara Gibbons was killed in 1973 have been matched to those of Tim-

othy Parmalee of Falls Village, Peter Reilly's attorney T.F. Gilroy Daly said Tuesday. Timothy Parmalee is the brother of Michael Parmalee, who has been identified through affidavits as a suspect no longer having an alibi for the night of the slaying.

### 25 years ago —

**January 2001**

Nearly 60 years ago a Canaan limestone plant became a defense contractor. It was no secret the magnesium produced was shipped for use in military aircraft and incendiary bombs. It was 1943 in the midst of World War II, but it was not until the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima that it became common knowledge the majority of the mineral mined from Canaan Mountain was used in the Manhattan Project.

It came as no surprise that a report titled "The Health of Connecticut's Hospitals" ranked Sharon as one of four "significantly distressed" in the state. The 285-page document is the result of a special act of the General Assembly in 1999 which called for the state's Office of Health Care Access to study Connecticut's hospital system and the factors that influence the financial conditions of hospitals.

**KENT** — The town hall meeting room was nearly filled to capacity Sunday as residents came to honor their "home-town hero," former State Sen. M. Adela Eads. Mrs. Eads retired from the 30th District this month, after serving 20 years in the upper chamber. And while her area covered 15 towns, she always had a special place in her heart for the people of Kent.

Lake Wononscopomuc is home to two species of snail and two weeks that are of special concern to environmentalists, but it does not shelter

## JUMPFEST

Continued from Page A1

Tragically, in 1934, at the age of 40, John Satre was killed in a car accident. The New York Times hailed him as a pioneer in U.S. skiing and his legacy is carried on in the winter sports culture that is nurtured in Salisbury today.

During this time, local children were introduced to the sport, creating makeshift jumps in their backyards out of crates and hay bales. One of these children was Richard Parsons, who became the first Salisbury resident to earn recognition for cross country skills. He earned a spot for the 1932 Lake Placid Winter Olympic Games and in 1936 competed in the Winter Olympics in Garmisch, Germany, where he was the leading American-born cross-country skier.

During World War II, young athletes who would have normally been jumping were enlisted in the service, causing a lull in the sport and deterioration of the jump itself. After the war, however, community members eagerly worked to rebuild the jump, and another Salisbury athlete emerged.

Roy Sherwood was first introduced to ski jumping when his father built him and his brother their own ski jump in their backyard. Sherwood quickly gained ground, earning himself the



PHOTOS PROVIDED

From left, John Satre, Magnus Satre and Ottar Satre.

title of "hometown hero." By 1954, Sherwood was offered a spot on the U.S. Olympic Team for the 1956 games in Cortina, Italy.

Sherwood's path to the Olympics was far from easy. A year before the Games, he was diagnosed with polio, threatening his ability to compete. He recovered enough to travel to Italy, only to hit an icy patch during a practice run.

Sherwood rebounded and competed the next day, placing 36th out of 51 — the second-highest finish by an

American — and was later inducted into the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame.

Today, four jumps line Satre Hill — K10, K20, K30, and K65. The 65-meter jump is used for competitions, and the smaller jumps are used to teach local youth during winter camps.

Islay Sheil, a Housatonic Valley Regional High School student and Lakeville resident, is the current SWSA athlete on the rise in ski jumping today. Her passion for the sport emerged during one of the SWSA

winter camps, and last March earned gold in the Junior National Championships. The next Junior National Championships will be hosted in Salisbury in 2027.

While Salisbury celebrates the 100th anniversary of its own ski jump this year, the Olympic Games will be held in Milan and Cortina, Italy, the same place that Sherwood gained global recognition.

To honor the town's remarkable history and tradition of ski jumping, Jumpfest will begin early with a

Winter Warmer on Jan. 31 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. It will be at the home of Salisbury First Selectman Curtis Rand. Small plates and drinks will be served. Limited tickets are available for \$50 and more details can be found at [Jumpfest.org/100years/](http://Jumpfest.org/100years/)

On Feb. 1, a double feature screening of *On the Hill* and *Downhill Racer* will be held at The Moviehouse in Millerton, followed by a panel discussion on winter sports and SWSA's role in Salisbury's history. There will also be a raffle and SWSA merchandise for sale.

Tickets for the showings are \$16 and details can be found at [Jumpfest.org/100years/](http://Jumpfest.org/100years/).

On Friday, Feb. 6, Jumpfest will host community night at Satre Hill. SWSA will offer free admission for the night. Gates open at 6 p.m. and "Target Jumping Under the Lights" will begin at 7 p.m. There will be fireworks sponsored by NBT Bank, bonfires, and food and drinks available for purchase. The Human Dog sled Race is set for 8:30 p.m. Teams of five

can register at [Jumpfest.org](http://Jumpfest.org)

On Saturday, Feb. 7, the Junior Competition on K20 jump will begin at 9 a.m. The Salisbury Invitational Ski Jumping Competition will practice from 11 a.m. to noon and compete at 1 p.m. Community members are invited to the Snow Ball at the Lakeville Town Grove at 8 p.m. Dancers will be accompanied by live music from the Steve Dunn Band. Entrance to the Ball is \$20 with children 12 and under free of charge.

On Sunday, Feb. 8, Satre Hill will hold the Eastern U.S. Ski Jumping Championships. Athletes will practice between 11 a.m. to noon and compete at 1 p.m.

When describing the community that surrounds the ski jumps, Willie Hallahan of SWSA explained that the length of time and number of people involved on an emotional level has made the sport "iconic to Salisbury."

Hallahan recounted in the PBS documentary "The Jump" that the ski jumps are "like a family member to a lot of people".

## HVRHS

Continued from Page A1

insure the vehicle once he earns his driver's license.

Matt McGuire of North Canaan, who hopes to pursue a career in law enforcement, centered his project on learning about state police work. He contacted the State Police Troop B barracks and was paired with advisor Trooper Lance Carlson, a K9 officer and HVRHS graduate.

Through the project, McGuire learned about the range of situations troopers encounter during their shifts, including traffic enforcement and responding to injured animals in the roadway. He also gained exposure to fingerprinting, dispatch operations, and the Ford Explorers used by troopers. McGuire noted that Carlson's vehicle includes "a bed in the back for the dog."

Asked why he wants to become a police officer, McGuire said simply, "I like helping people."

Christopher Race of Lakeville, a baseball player, took a different approach, choosing to make both a bat and a baseball from scratch. His first attempt at crafting a bat from a block of maple using only a hammer and chisel was unsuccessful. After gaining access to a lathe and receiving training, he produced a 33-inch, 30-ounce torpedo-style bat.

Race also created a baseball using leather, a bouncy ball for the core, and extensive string wrapping. Reflecting on the process, he said he learned that "projects don't always go as planned, so you have to adapt to reach the goal."

## MLK

Continued from Page A1

"Sing 'Precious Lord' and sing it pretty," King told a follower.

Sabune's visit to Salisbury followed a long journey that began with a bus ride from Tucson, Arizona, to Phoenix on Saturday, Jan. 17, followed by an overnight flight. The Rev. Johan Johnson, priest-in-charge at St. John's and chaplain at Salisbury School, picked him up at 7 a.m. Sunday.

The two men have known

each other for so long they cannot recall exactly where or when they first met. During an interview, Sabune paused to greet Johnson's youngest daughter, whom he baptized.

As he headed toward the reception, where parishioners were waiting to greet him, Sabune was asked one final question:

"You going to get a nap in today?"

"Yes!" he said emphatically, as he hurried up the aisle.

## LIBRARY

Continued from Page A1

tailed presentation by Executive Director Sarah Marshall on how the new facility will look. She exuded excitement that was clearly shared by attendees.

The original brick building will remain, she assured them, but the addition, including connecting to the adjacent former fire house, will provide for an abundance of needed space and the opportunity to expand all types of offerings. The cost is approximately \$7.7 million, but Marshall said there's a possibility it might be a bit lower.

Those in attendance spoke lovingly of the library, which, as it is in many towns, is a focal point. Nicole Dunne, who lived in Kent but recently moved to Warren, spoke of how her family began using the library when she had her first child. "It's been wonderful the whole time. They really pay attention to the community's needs. We're very excited about the addition. It's been a long time in the making."

Carrie Trowbridge and her family are also loyal users of the library. Asked for her thoughts about the renovation, she replied, "It's going to be a big change."

But Karina O'Meara has already witnessed changes. Raised in Kent, she has vivid memories of climbing up the steep set of stairs that led to the children's room. "I remember seeking out Nancy Drew books and viewing such movies as 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' and 'Bedknobs and Broomsticks.'

"Going up there was kind of spooky and dark," O'Meara



Kent Memorial Library Executive Director Sarah Marshall shows the plans for the renovated library during Saturday's "Goodbye Party."

said. "I had to give myself courage to go up there."

She also had memories of Thelma Barton, a longtime town and school librarian.

The junior room was part of a past renovation and is now in the rear of the first floor. Administrative offices are up on the second floor, still reached by those steep stairs.

Marshall, in a letter to the community, explained the temporary quarters will be at 10-12 Landmark Lane in the Kent Green.

It is hoped that space will be open some time in February. She listed all the resources that will be housed there, saying, "Basically, we'll have just about everything we offer at the library, just on a smaller scale." It is expected the renovation will take about a year. During this time, patrons can

use their Kent library card in any library in Connecticut. Information will be posted on the library's website throughout the project.

Marshall said she's grateful to all for the community's understanding "as we face some growing pains."

"Thanks to everyone who has helped us get to this milestone," she said. "It's going to be a wonderful addition to the library and the town we all love."

**Sarah Marshall, executive director of Kent Memorial Library, cuts the cake at Saturday's "Goodbye Party," as the library temporarily closes for a large renovation project. The cake's inscription reads 'The library is growing!'**

PHOTOS BY RUTH EPSTEIN

## MLK

Continued from Page A1

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The two men have known



## When it comes to finances, it matters who has your back.

Meet Beth Coon, branch manager of our Pine Plains branch. If you ask her what she likes most about her job, she will say it's all about the customers — from helping high school grads open their first bank accounts, to assisting older customers maneuver new banking services like Online Banking. With over 30 years of local banking experience, Beth says "it's great to be part of a bank where family and community are so important."

Stop by, say hi to Beth and tell her what financial services she can help you with. She's a great listener!

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PERFORMANCE: RICHARD FEINER AND ANNETTE STOVER

## Stissing Center announces expansive 2026 season

There's something for everyone at the Stissing Center for Arts & Culture, the welcoming nonprofit performing arts space in the heart of Pine Plains, New York. The center's adventurous 2026 season is designed to appeal to all audiences, with a curated mix of local and visiting artists working across a range of disciplines, from bluegrass to Beethoven, from Bollywood to burlesque.

The season opens Saturday, Jan. 31, with Spark!, a multimedia concert that will also preview the center's fifth year of presenting performances that inspire, entertain and connect the community. Spark! features Grammy Award-winning Rosanne Cash, one of the country's preeminent singer-songwriters, whose artistry bridges country, folk and rock with a distinctly literary strain of American songwriting.

According to Patrick Trettenero, executive director of the Stissing Center, "This year's programming is inspired by our commitment to bring people together through the shared experience of arts and culture. It's a lively mix of musical styles — from roots, classical, world, rock and jazz — to our always-popular singer-songwriter series, with more than 50 music events to choose from."

In addition to music, the season includes theater and dance. Highlights include the Hudson Valley Puppet Slam and the Roundtop Burlesque Revue, along with dance performances ranging from flamenco to Irish step. A film series will showcase the indie comedy favorite *Hundreds of Beavers* and a live-score screening of the beloved silent Charlie Chaplin classic *The Kid*. The season also includes free programs for children all summer, along with community events and family-friendly fare.

The 2026 season also marks the launch of The Grace Note, an intimate venue located downstairs at the Stissing Center that will serve as an inviting and informal entry point to mainstage shows. The Grace Note will be open every Friday night and will feature singer-songwriters, stand-up comedy, jazz

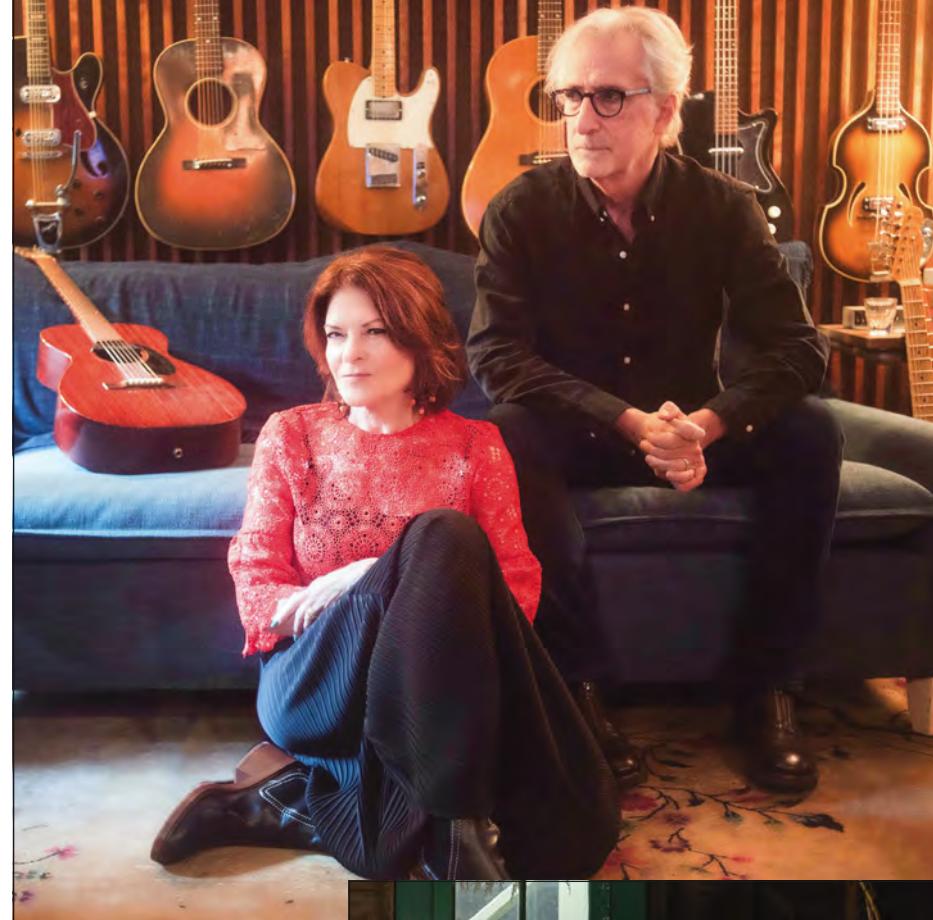


PHOTO BY VIVIAN WANG

**The opening of the 2026 season at The Stissing Center on Jan. 31 will feature Grammy winner Rosanne Cash (pictured with John Leventhal).**

quartets, play readings, storytelling and more.

The venue is part of the center's commitment to offering a place for locals and visitors alike to gather and discover new work, hear familiar voices in new ways and enjoy a great night out in the neighborhood. The Grace Note opens Feb. 13 with a performance by local singer-songwriter Natalia Zukerman, who is also the Lakeville Journal and Millerton News' arts, lifestyle and engagement editor. Her masterful musicianship and storytelling blend folk, blues and Americana with wry humor and emotional clarity, creating an experience that feels both personal



PHOTO BY SARAH BLODGETT

**Natalia Zukerman will open the series at The Grace Note, the new space at The Stissing Center on Feb. 13.**

and expansive. Zukerman said, "I'm honored to be opening the season in this beautiful new room at The Stissing Center. The Grace Note opens up lots of creative opportunities for the Center, for performers and for our community. It's thrilling."

"We are very intentional about this season and the launch of The Grace Note," Trettenero added. "Our goal is simple: to make the Stissing Center a place for people of all backgrounds and

perspectives to come for great arts experiences, to support outstanding artists and to offer a place for connection and shared humanity through the arts."

The full season schedule and tickets for all events are available at [thestissingcenter.org](http://thestissingcenter.org) or by calling 518-771-3339.

**ART: DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS**

## American Mural Project names new executive director

When Jennifer Chrein first stepped inside the cavernous mill building on Whiting Street in Winsted and looked up at the towering figures of the American Mural Project, she had no idea what she was walking into.

"I had been invited by a friend to attend an event in May 2024," Chrein recalled. That friend, she said, had a ticket they couldn't use and thought she'd enjoy it. "I didn't know anything about AMP. I didn't Google it — nothing."

What followed was immediate and visceral.

"I was just — wow!" she said. "I was awed. So excited to see something like this in this area. There isn't anything else like it."

That first encounter would eventually lead Chrein to her new role as executive director of the American Mural Project, where she joins founder and artistic director Ellen Griesedieck in guiding the organization into its next chapter.

Announced earlier this month, Chrein's appointment follows the departure of Amy Wynn, who stepped down Oct. 31 after seven years as the nonprofit organization's first executive director.

Chrein praised

Wynn for her leadership in establishing the organization's solid roots and foundation, including its children's programming, events and talented staff.

At the heart of AMP is what is widely regarded as the world's largest indoor collaborative work of art: a five-story, 120-foot-long, three-dimensional mural depicting American workers across trades, industries and eras.

Created by Griesedieck with the help of hundreds of community volunteers, the mural fills the former mill building with life-sized and larger-than-life figures at work, transforming the space into an immersive environment that blurs the line between art, history and lived experience.

"The first time I saw the mural, I was awed by its scale — Ellen's artistry, and what it says about the central role of work in our lives," said Chrein. "I was immediately captivated and felt the need to share the space, the mission, and the live performances and educational programs with as many people as possible."

At the time, she said, AMP was still in an early phase of its development.

"They were still

*Continued on next page*

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PHOTO PROVIDED

**Author Karen Belove and her horse, Sally, the inspiration for the titular character of her debut children's book.**

**BOOKS: NATHAN MILLER**

## Stanfordville author debuts children's book inspired by real-life horse

**K**aren Belove, of Stanfordville, said her first children's book wrote itself one day after more than a decade of thinking about it.

Belove's debut book, "Cotton Candy Sally Finds a Home," is a heartfelt tale about the trials of youth and horse training. It follows Cotton Candy Sally, a horse born in Iowa and later sold to a facility in New York City, and a young girl named Kara as she navigates adolescence and the death of a parent.

The book was inspired by the real-life story of Belove's first horse, a quarter horse from Iowa also named Cotton Candy Sally, that ended up at a facility in Queens, New York, after its owners sold it.

That horse set Belove down a lifelong path deeper into the equestrian world.

"I really loved the horses," Belove said. "It was slowly taking over my life, though I didn't realize it."

While horses were becoming an increasingly central part of her life, Belove cut her teeth at advertising agencies in New York City. She wrote ad copy every day, an occupation she said both helped and hurt her while writing her first book.

"It was a little bit of a detriment because it's such a different kind of writing," Belove said. "I had to forget about the exclamation marks."

Even so, Belove said

she paid special attention to the book's prose. Children, especially those in their preteen years, are complex, and she wanted to honor that complexity in both the content and the composition.

*Continued on next page*

## Jennifer Chrein is the new executive director of the American Mural Project

*Continued from previous page*

building its foundation. They had only been open about a year," she said. "I wasn't part of their immediate vision, so I stayed a friend."

Chrein said her hope and vision for AMP, along with its board and Griesedieck, "is to expand awareness not only around Winsted and surrounding areas, but regionally, statewide and ultimately nationally."

"AMP's reach, awareness and impact should be as great as the mural itself," she said. "I am energized to be coming on board at the same time as our nation's 250th anniversary. The timing could not be better to celebrate, acknowledge and support our American workforce."

Chrein brings more than 30 years of experience in children's educational programming and global media development to the role, a background she sees as a natural fit for the mural project's mission. Her career has focused on the intersection of education, entertainment and social impact, including senior leadership roles at Sesame Workshop and Common Sense Networks, as well as founding JBMW Media and partnering in Storynauts Entertainment, where she has developed purpose-driven programming for



PHOTO PROVIDED

**Jennifer Chrein is the new executive director of the American Mural Project.**

families, including the preschool animated series "Powerbirds."

She said that experience — balancing creativity, partnerships and long-term sustainability — translates directly to nonprofit leadership.

On a personal level, Chrein's path to northwest Connecticut has been gradual. Now a Simsbury resident, she previously lived in Sandisfield, Massachusetts, and spent much of her life in New York City, where she worked at Sesame Workshop and traveled frequently. After shifting into consulting, she and her family put down roots in Simsbury, drawn to the town for its

excellent school system.

As executive director, Chrein is clear-eyed about both AMP's potential and its challenges — particularly visibility.

"The big issue with AMP is how to get people to come here," she said. "How do we get people to recognize Winsted as a destination?"

One goal is to introduce new elements and spaces that would provide a "happy place" for the community to gather, study, hold corporate meetings, host family events and celebrate milestones.

For Griesedieck, that

evolution feels like a natural next step.

"I couldn't be more excited that she has joined us as our new executive director and will bring some of these terrific ideas to life," said Griesedieck.

Chrein said she is stepping into the role with urgency and humility, guided by the same sense of awe she felt on her first visit. Her aim, she said, is to make sure more people discover the space, share their stories and feel the same sense of connection she did when she first looked up at the mural.

## At The Movies

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PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

### 'Conversant' opens at Troutbeck

Visitors gathered at Troutbeck in Amenia for the opening of "Conversant" on Friday, Jan. 16, a solo exhibition by multidisciplinary artist E.E. Kono, presented in collaboration with the Wassaic Project. Kono, an alumna of the Wassaic Project's Winter Residency program, created a series of luminous egg tempera paintings inspired by Troutbeck's landscape, history and legacy as a site of social and intellectual exchange. The works incorporate silverpoint, locally sourced pigments and recurring clematis motifs, referencing the estate's history as a gathering place for artists, thinkers and social reformers. The exhibition will end with an artist talk on April 19.

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FOOD: SALLY HAVER

# Café Gourmet Bakery and Catering brings high-quality dining to Canaan

Café Gourmet Bakery and Catering opened in Canaan in November 2024, bringing a high-quality yet approachable dining experience to East Main Street. The restaurant is co-owned by Andrew Thielemann, general manager, and Nicholas Policastro, executive chef, who met two years ago while working in similar roles at another establishment and decided to strike out on their own.

Currently, the restaurant is open five days a week — Thursday through Monday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. — serving breakfast and lunch. Dinner service is planned for later this winter.

"Before the end of winter, we will be offering dinner service," Thielemann said. "Initially, we'll open softly for a couple of nights — Fridays and Saturdays — then expand dinner service fully Thursday through Monday by the beginning of summer."

The phased rollout



PHOTO BY BOB ELLWOOD

will allow the owners to gather feedback and iron out any wrinkles while serving a carefully curated menu designed to give customers the quality food and service they have already experienced as breakfast-and-lunch diners.

"Then we'll move forward on expanding menu offerings based

on what we've learned," Thielemann said.

Thielemann has spent three decades in the hospitality industry.

"From dishwashing to running entire operations as a general manager," Thielemann said. "Mine has been an experience-driven career," he added. "Locally, I spent a few years at Troutbeck

in Amenia, then went to Community Table in New Preston. What I bring to the enterprise is my ability to manage multiple stakeholders in venues ranging from casual dining operations to high-end country clubs, and at Wheatleigh in Lenox, Massachusetts, where he perfected his upscale French cooking.

Policastro earned his culinary arts business management degree at SUNY Delhi, where he won multiple awards

**Co-owners**  
Nicholas  
Policastro, left,  
and Andrew  
Thielemann of  
Café Gourmet.

a variety of fresh salads, and a "Shareable" section featuring items such as truffle fries and chocolate sourdough with ricotta.

Online reviews reflect the experience:

• "WOW!! This place is incredible! The food was absolutely delicious... Andrew, the co-owner, was friendly and made us feel so welcome."

• "The most charming spot around with an unpretentious atmosphere and genuinely great food. High-quality ingredients, thoughtfully made dishes, and very fairly priced."

• "The wait staff asks right away when you sit down about your dietary needs, like gluten- and dairy-free, or allergies. So welcome and proactive!"

• "I intend to become a regular customer; this restaurant, this wonderful food — well worth the trip."

Café Gourmet — Bakery & Catering is located at 18 E. Main Street in Canaan. Phone: (959) 227-9021. Reservations are not required at this time. Once dinner service begins, reservations will be recommended.

## ...Karen Belove *Continued from previous page*

Her book is character-driven, Belove said, because those were the narratives she remembers resonating with her most as a young reader. A favorite was Beverly Cleary's "Beezus and Ramona."

"I told my mother then, 'When I grow up, I'm going to write stories like "Beezus and Ramona,'" Belove said.

She credits her parents' support for her career in writing. Though they were not artists themselves, they encouraged Belove and her sister to pursue creative interests. That encouragement, Belove said, led her to become a writer and her sister a painter.

"I can still remember the first thing I ever

wrote," Belove said. "It was a poem about my cat."

Her childhood cat had escaped from the family's home in suburban Westchester County. To process the loss, Belove wrote a poem and showed it to her mother, who insisted she bring it to school the next day to show her teacher.

"My mother kept it," Belove said. "I still have it."

Belove was close with her parents, so the sudden death of her father at age 56 sent her on a search for joy that eventually led her to Cotton Candy Sally, an experience she said is reflected

in her book.

These real-life experiences are meant to give young readers an engaging, empowering and educational narrative, Belove said, because the complexities of real life are unavoidable.

"Life enables me to write the kind of book I want to write," Belove said. "Children are complex. They're really trying to navigate a world they have no experience navigating."

Belove self-published "Cotton Candy Sally Finds a Home." More information about purchasing the book is available at [sallyhornerchronicles.com](http://sallyhornerchronicles.com).

"The atrium is a beautiful spot to read, enjoy the plants and socialize — there's nearly a party here almost every week."

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## TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Items are printed as space permits. Submit calendar items to [editor@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:editor@lakevillejournal.com)

## JANUARY 22

## Ski Jumping in the Northeast with Author Ariel Picton Kobayashi

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. [huntlibrary.org](http://huntlibrary.org)At 6 p.m., the David M. Hunt Library will host a virtual program with Ariel Picton Kobayashi author of "Ski Jumping in the Northeast: Small Towns and Big Dreams." Register for the program at [huntlibrary.org/events](http://huntlibrary.org/events)

## Owls of the Hudson Valley

Online.

From 1 to 2:30 p.m., join local scientist, natural historian, and writer-photographer Dr. Loren Merrill for a fascinating exploration of the owls that call the Hudson Valley home and learn about the remarkable adaptations that make these mysterious nighttime hunters so captivating. Online only. Register: [www.innisfreegarden.org/events/owls-2026](http://innisfreegarden.org/events/owls-2026)

## Genealogy Workshop: Trace Salisbury's Roots to the Revolution

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org)

Thursdays, Jan. 22 &amp; 29

On two Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., learn the basics of genealogy in this fun, two-part, hands-on, exploratory workshop with genealogist Jane Sellery. Use online ancestry tools and accessible public information to uncover past lives and create a profile for a real Salisbury resident who lived during the Revolutionary War era.

Registration is required at [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org)

## JANUARY 23

## Black Comedy

Ghent Playhouse, 6 Town Hall Place, Ghent, N.Y.

Jan. 23 to 25 and Jan. 30 to Feb. 1

The Ghent Playhouse opens the new year with Peter Shaffer's fast-paced farce "Black Comedy," directed by Ed Dignum ("Lend Me a Tenor"). Set in swinging 1960s London, the play follows a young sculptor whose scheme to impress a collector and future in-laws unravels during a sudden blackout, triggering a night of slapstick chaos.

Tickets and showtimes: [GhentPlayhouse.org](http://GhentPlayhouse.org)

## Lunch and Learn

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. [hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org](http://hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org)Lunch and Learn at Hotchkiss Library of Sharon returns from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23, with "Winter Wellness with Dr. Elizabeth Wing, ND." Learn naturopathic strategies to boost your immunity and stay well in the season of colds and flu. Registration is required [hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com](http://hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com).

## Happy Hour Piano Series: Christopher Casey

American Mural Project, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn.

5 to 7 p.m., \$8

Jazz pianist and composer Christopher Casey performs as part of AMP's Happy Hour Piano Series, featuring live music and libations in a distinctive art space. Tickets may be reserved in advance at [americanmuralproject.org/teen-art-workshops](http://americanmuralproject.org/teen-art-workshops).

## JANUARY 24

## New Art Nest Opening at Wassaic Project

Wassaic Project, 37 Furnace Bank Road, Wassaic, N.Y.

Wassaic Project announces the reopening of the Art Nest, its free, drop-in artmaking space for families, now in a fully ADA-accessible, renovated ground-floor location at Maxon Mills. The refreshed space features expanded seating, new amenities and year-round Saturday drop-in hours, with a reopening celebration on Jan. 24 from noon to 5 p.m., including a ribbon cutting at 1 p.m.

## Blacklight Dance!

Dewey Hall, 91 Main St., Sheffield, Mass.

Sheffield Contra presents an evening of contra dancing at Dewey Hall with music from The Star Charters. There will be a lesson from 6:30 to 7 p.m. and the dancing will be 7 to 10 p.m. with caller Will Mentor. No partner necessary. Tickets and more info at [sheffieldcontra.com](http://sheffieldcontra.com)

## Heroes &amp; Villains in Your Backyard: The Native vs. Invasive Plant Conundrum

Sharon Town Hall, 63 Main St., Sharon, Conn.

A free three-part workshop series hosted by the Sharon Energy &amp; Environmental Commission, the Sharon Audubon Center and the Sharon Land Trust.

Jan. 24: Understanding Native &amp; Invasive Plants in our Local Landscape.

Feb. 21: Practical Strategies for Managing Invasive Plants at Home &amp; On Your Land

March 28: Choosing, Planting &amp; Supporting Native Plants for Healthier Landscapes

## Teen Art Workshop: Game On!

American Mural Project, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn.

10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Suggested donation \$10

Artist and educator Gerald Moore leads an interactive workshop using 3D acrylic shapes to build worlds, characters and storylines through collaborative play. Open to teens of all skill levels. Advance registration recommended at [americanmuralproject.org/teen-art-workshops](http://americanmuralproject.org/teen-art-workshops).

## JANUARY 25

## Master Wildlife Conservationist Ginny Apple at the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. [hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org](http://hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org)

Jan. 25, 4 p.m.: Black Bears in Connecticut — Learn about bear habitat, diet, behavior, reproduction, current research, and practical tips for coexisting with Connecticut's black bear population.

Free and open to all. Registration required at [hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com](http://hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com).

## Village Gardeners Book Club

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. [huntlibrary.org](http://huntlibrary.org)

The David M. Hunt Library and the Village Gardeners will partner to offer a book club at the library. All meetings will take place on Sunday afternoons at 3:30 p.m. On Jan. 25 the group will be discussing "Seed to Dust" by Marc Hamer. Books for each discussion will be available to check out at the library. This program is free and open to the public.

## Last week's WotW

F	U	Z	Z	Y
O	F	T	E	N
S	T	I	F	F
S	W	I	F	T

## 1. Fully grown human

## 2. Plastic used to make records

## 3. A bar that pivots on a fulcrum

## 4. To work out an answer

## 5. Winter hand covering

REVOLUTION SONG  
Book Discussion with Peter VermilyeaScoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org)Join us from 4 to 5:30 p.m. to discuss this year's Salisbury READS book, "Revolution Song," by Russell Shorto, an acclaimed nonfiction narrative of the American Revolution, seen through the eyes of six diverse historical individuals. Author and award-winning HVRHS educator Peter Vermilyea will lead the discussion, connecting Shorto's themes and characters with our own local Revolutionary War history. Registration is required at [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org)

## JANUARY 29

## Dine Out for History

Various locations

Jan. 18 to March 23, 2026. Seven Millerton restaurants will host Dine Out for History evenings benefiting the North East Historical Society, with 10% of proceeds donated on designated nights. Participating restaurants include The Millerton Inn (Jan. 18), Taro's (Jan. 29), Willa (Feb. 12), Oakhurst Diner (Feb. 22), Pasture Kitchen (March 5), Golden Wok (March 15, takeout only) and Round III (March 23). Mention Dine Out for History when ordering.

## JANUARY 25

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## CLUES ACROSS

1. Mechanical lever

7. Rocky peak

10. Leave a country

12. Discount

13. D.C. ballplayer

14. Partner to "ooed"

15. Engine sound

16. Japanese ornamental box

17. Fido is one

18. Amounts of time

19. DiFranco and Phylo are two

21. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)

22. Make secret plans

27. "Tiny Bubbles" singer

28. "His Airness"

33. Morning

34. Perfected

36. Winger guitarist Beach

37. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician

38. Self-immolation by fire ritual

39. A way to save money

40. Pulpit

41. Make ecstatically happy

44. Once more

45. Works on

48. Nocturnal S.

American rodent

49. State again

50. Expression of disappointment

51. Type of door

52. A street with lots of nightmares

29. Rapper Rule

30. River in Scotland

31. One who settles a dispute

32. Most chummy

35. We all have our own

36. Arab tribe

38. Slap

40. Ottoman military commanders

41. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language

## Bats of the Hudson Valley

Online.

1 to 2:30 p.m.

Though rarely seen by daytime visitors, Innisfree's varied landscape provides habitat for a remarkable diversity of bats—up to nine species native to New York may forage, roost, or pass through the garden during the warmer months.

Join Hudsonia biologist and educator Dr. Amanda Bevan Zientek for an engaging exploration of the behaviors, adaptations, and ecological importance of these misunderstood animals. Register: [www.innisfreegarden.org/events/bats-2026](http://www.innisfreegarden.org/events/bats-2026)event featuring four time Grammy winner Rosanne Cash, acclaimed singer-songwriter, author and cultural voice. Hailed by Rolling Stone as one of her generation's most ambitious and literary artists. 7 p.m. Tickets at: [thestissingcenter.org](http://thestissingcenter.org)

## FEBRUARY 1

## A Year in the Books: Reflecting on What We Read in 2025

Homegrown Cafe, 5 Railroad St. North Canaan, Conn.

Whistle Pig Books invites you to join us at Homegrown Cafe on Sunday, Feb. 1, at 3:30 p.m. for thoughtful conversations about the books you read in 2025—the ones you loved, didn't love, and couldn't stop thinking about.

## Traitor or True Defender? Loyalists and the American Revolution

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org)

Who remained loyal to the Crown? Join us 4 to 5:30 p.m., and travel back in time with Tom Key to 1830 to hear the other side of history as told by a historical loyalist, Ezra Curruthers, who fought under Lord Cornwallis. We'll explore the complex political, economic, theological, and personal reasons why so many Americans risked everything to remain British.

## Spark! Season Launch

## Event featuring Rosanne Cash

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

Celebrate the opening of Stissing Center's season with a launch

## Brain Teasers

## CLUES ACROSS

1. Mechanical lever

7. Rocky peak

10. Leave a country

12. Discount

13. D.C. ballplayer

14. Partner to "ooed"

15. Engine sound

16. Japanese ornamental box

17. Fido is one

18. Amounts of time

19. DiFranco and Phylo are two

21. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)

22. Make secret plans

27. "Tiny Bubbles" singer

## Our Towns

# North Canaan looks ahead to full calendar of events

By Robin Roraback

**NORTH CANAAN** — The North Canaan Events Committee (NCEC) held a meeting Tuesday evening, Jan. 13, to begin mapping out plans for 2026, a year expected to bring expanded programming tied to major national and local milestones.

Christian Allyn, a resident attending the meeting, noted that 2026 will be a “big year with the 250th,” referring to the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Jenn Crane, chair of NCEC, said that with a busy regional calendar expected in 2026, the committee wants to be mindful of other towns’ events to avoid scheduling conflicts. She stressed that the discussion was informal and not a formal meeting.

The meeting went on to discuss more than 20 area events, and some of the highlights include:

The George Washington’s Birthday Ball, scheduled for Feb. 21 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Colonial Theatre. The event, hosted by Friends of the Canaan History Center, will feature live music by Relatively Sound, with “small bites” provided by Freund’s Farm. Guests will also be greeted by costumed historical figures circulating throughout the evening, wearing period attire on loan from Sharon Playhouse. Tickets are \$50 per person.

The event will also feature a “Tipple Table,” a colonial-era tradition offering George Washington’s beer recipe brewed by Norbrook Farm Brewery, along with wine from Land of Nod



North Canaan Events Committee chair Jenn Crane, center, leads a preliminary planning session for this year's events in North Canaan on Tuesday, Jan. 13. Community members and town officials joined.

Vineyard & Winery.

In March, the annual Egg Hunt is scheduled for March 28 at Lawrence Field. Town Clean Up Day will follow on April 25 in recognition of Earth Day.

In May, NCEC will assist the Friends of Douglas Library with their annual plant sale, and the first vendor market of the year is planned

for Sunday, May 31.

June will feature cemetery tours and Summer Talks presented by the Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society. On June 13, the Canaan History Center will reenact the raising of the Liberty Pole on the Corner Green, adjacent to Bunny McGuire Park, with hot dogs and apple pie served. NCEC will also

spearhead the Community Tag Sale on Father’s Day weekend, June 20–21.

Summer programming continues in July with the return of Summer Nights of Canaan, including a carnival, fireworks and parade. The Bitterman Center will host a dinner featuring traditional colonial foods.

Canaan Railroad Days will take place Aug. 6 to Aug. 9, highlighting the town’s locomotive history with events centered around the Canaan Union Depot.

A car show is planned for September at North Canaan Elementary School. Crane said organizers have also asked NCEC to coordinate a vendor fair in conjunction with the event.

Pumpkin Fest and the annual scarecrow contest are scheduled for October. The

Calico Fair will be held the first Saturday in November at Pilgrim House, followed by Small Business Saturday on Nov. 28.

The holiday season begins the Sunday after Thanksgiving with Winter Fest’s Parade of Lights. A vendor market will be held at the elementary school prior to the parade.

December planning includes the annual holiday house decorating, business window painting and Letters to Santa programs.

Concluding the meeting, NCEC Chair Jenn Crane said, “So, now it is all about filling these events and collaborations.” She added that volunteers are needed to support the events and prevent cancellations.

For more information visit [www.northcanaanevents-committee.org](http://www.northcanaanevents-committee.org)

## Kent town meeting reviews capital plan, approves agenda items

By Alec Linden

**KENT** — Approximately 30 residents turned out Thursday, Jan. 15, for Kent’s annual town meeting to cast their votes and hear an early overview of the town’s five-year capital plan.

The meeting opened with a unanimous vote authorizing the Board of Selectmen and the town treasurer to borrow money on behalf of the town throughout the year.

Voters then unanimously approved a slew of appointments to the Parks and Rec-

eration Commission. David Schreiber, Kevin Frost and Keith Johnson were all installed as full members with three-year terms, expiring in 2029, while Miranda Lovato and Jordan Lovino were each appointed for one-year terms as alternates.

A motion was read to allow the town to assume ownership of Morehouse Cemetery on Richards Road and Parcell Cemetery on Old Gorham Road. Both are small, historic sites that haven’t seen a new burial in more than a century.

Michael Walach, whose

property abuts Parcell Cemetery, questioned what the transfer of ownership meant. First Selectman Eric Epstein explained that when the Cemetery Committee was established two years ago, a provision was included

stating that any additional graveyards discovered in town would be transferred to town ownership, since the Cemetery Committee functions as a municipal body.

Walach expressed that his major concern was that activity might ramp up in the quiet area, but Epstein said that he did not believe that

would happen. Regardless, he promised to put Walach in touch with the Cemetery Committee for more information.

Joe Agli spoke next, asking the Board of Selectmen if the town would be responsible for upkeep and maintenance of the property if it assumes ownership, and if those expenses would be included in the town budget. Epstein confirmed, saying that the costs will be factored into the Cemetery Committee’s budget line. The motion ultimately passed, with just Agli opposing.

### Five-year capital plan

The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to a detailed rundown of the five-year capital plan, the document that organizes future capital-intensive municipal projects.

Funds allocated within the first five years, in this case 2026 through 2031, are funded through taxation, while the next five years are included solely for planning purposes.

Notable in this year’s presentation was that the Board of Selectmen and other town department heads discussed

projects from across the entire five-year tax period, breaking practice from recent years where only the fifth-year projects have been discussed. Epstein ran through a number of municipal improvement projects that have funding allocated in the plan, including road and bridge repairs, town equipment upgrades and replacements, improvement projects for Emery Park and Kent Commons, Town Hall refurbishments and renovations to the Transfer Station.

*More online at [lakevillejournal.com](http://lakevillejournal.com)*

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#### HELP WANTED

**THE VILLAGE OF MILLERTON:** seeks an energetic, motivated individual to fill our part-time Municipal Bookkeeper position (15-20 hours a week). The Village has several infrastructure projects in the works and is an exciting active workplace. Pay \$25-\$35 per hour based on experience. Applicants must be proficient in Microsoft software, including Outlook, Excel, and Office, and be able to navigate multiple software applications, including KVS or similar accounting software. Demonstrated commitment to detail, accuracy, and discretion is a prerequisite. Preference will be given to candidates with 3 years’ bookkeeping and municipal government financial experience. Applicants must be residents of Dutchess County, New York. Applicants with interest in the position are encouraged to apply January 23, 2026. For more information or to submit a letter of interest to Lisa Cope, Village Clerk @ [clerk@villageoffmillerton-ny.gov](mailto:clerk@villageoffmillerton-ny.gov).

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